

HERGÉ
THE ADVENTURES OF
TINTIN
**DESTINATION
MOON**



MAMMOTH



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Translated by Leslie Lonsdale-Cooper
and Michael Turner

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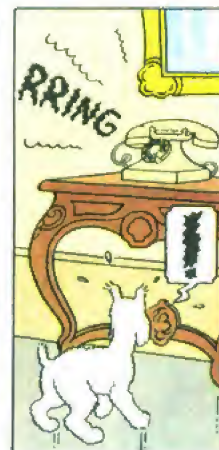
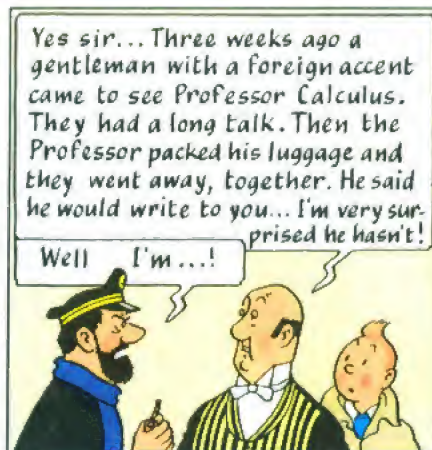
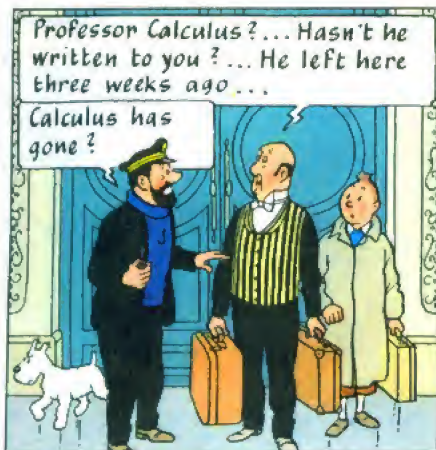
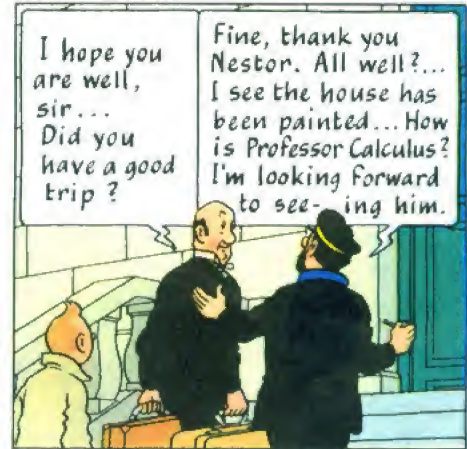
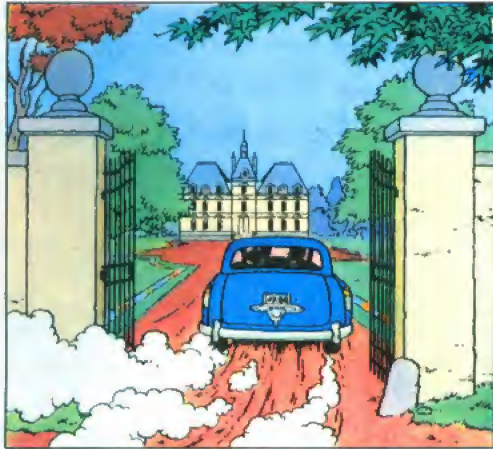
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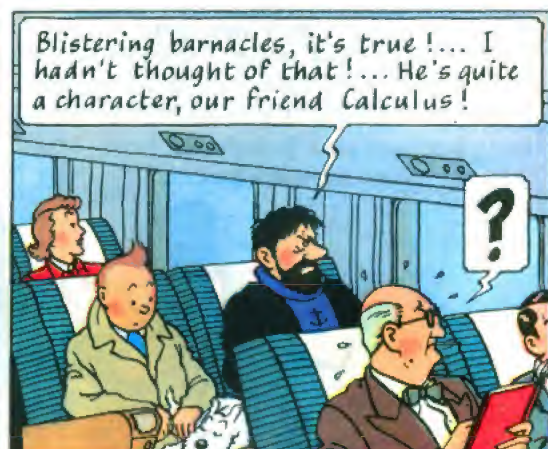
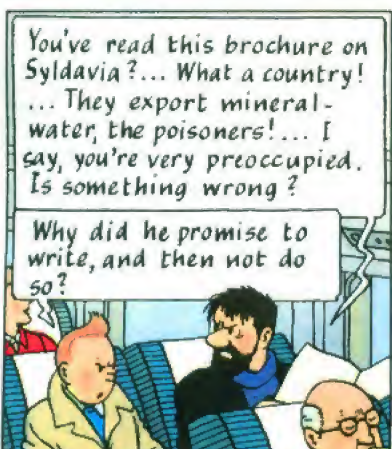
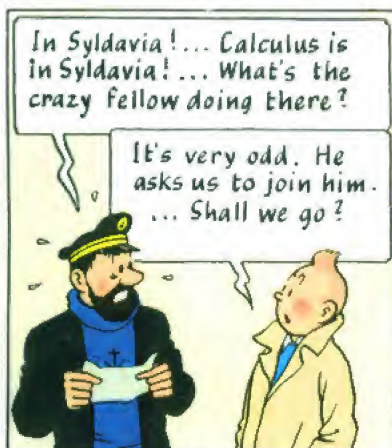
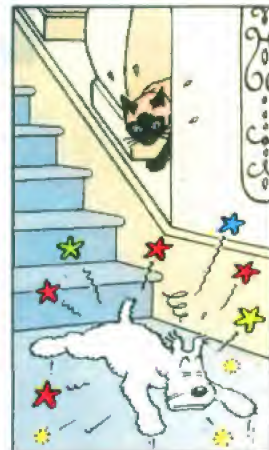
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DESTINATION MOON

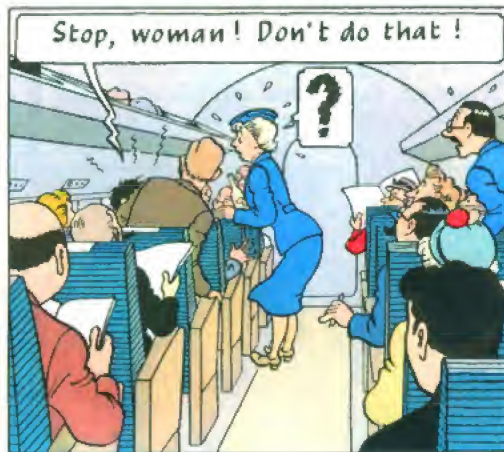






Your whisky, sir...

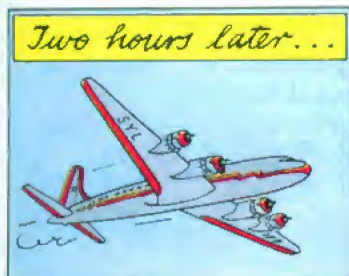
Ah, that's very kind.



Stop, woman! Don't do that!



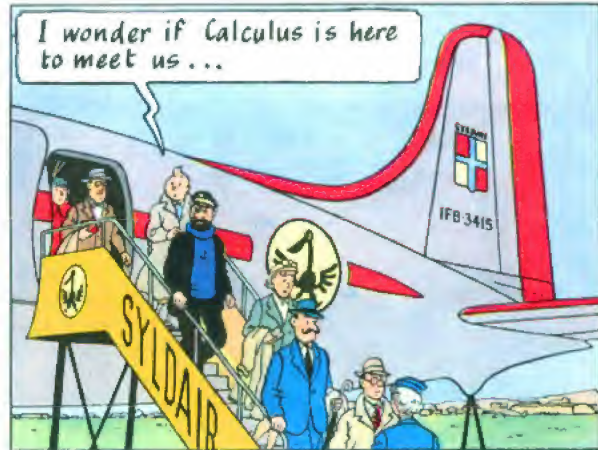
What are you doing?... Not one drop of that disgusting mineral-water in my whisky!



Two hours later...



Klow, ladies and gentlemen. Please fasten safety belts.



I wonder if Calculus is here to meet us...



No, I don't see him anywhere... He must have received our telegram by now. Well, we shall see. Here we are at the Customs. Anything to declare, Captain?

Me?... Nothing at all!



And this?... Spirits!... There's a heavy import duty, zir. Only mineral-water here in Syldavia...



875 Khors import duty! Bunch of pirates! In our money that'd be...

Strange... I don't see Calculus...



All passports, please.

You Captain Haddock?... And him Tintin?

Yes.



Your friend... er... not able to come... he send car... You please come with me...

Oh, Calculus has sent a car for us. That's kind of him... Good: we'll follow you.

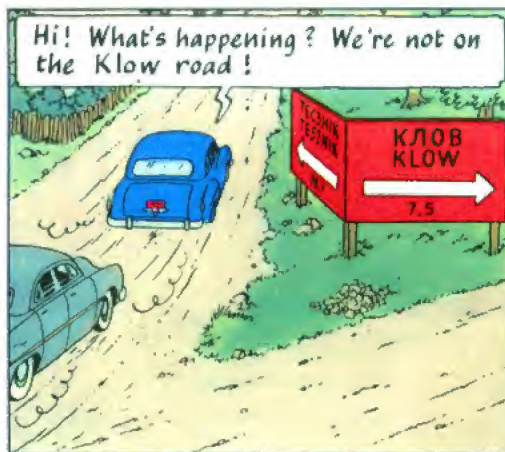
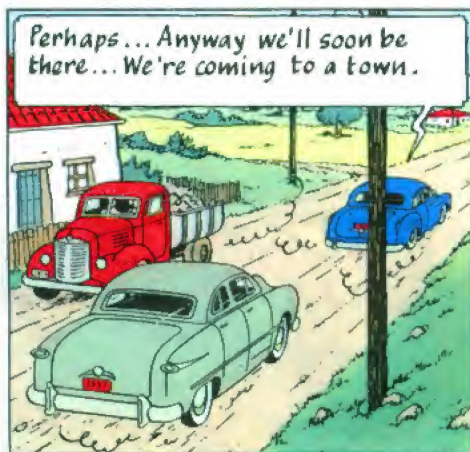


Wait... What about our luggage?

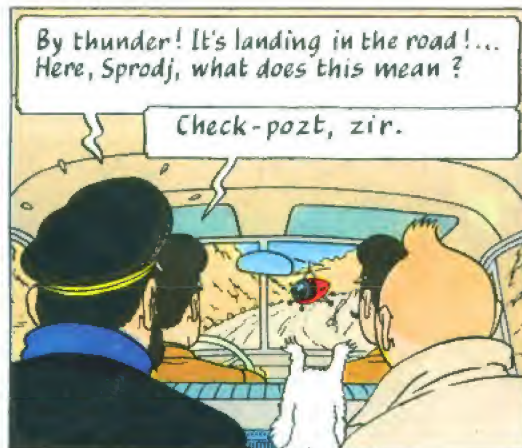
Already in the car, zir.



Take a good look at those two... They're joining the Mammoth. You see, Zepo have picked them up already...

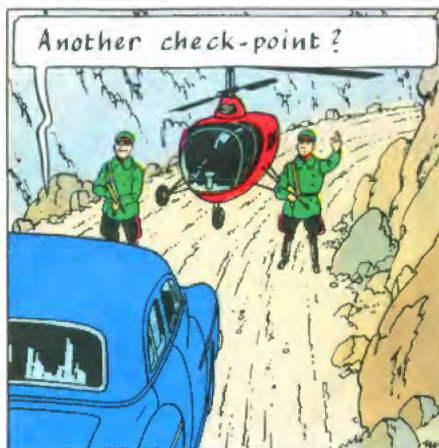






By thunder! It's landing in the road!... Here, Sprodj, what does this mean?

Check-pozt, zir.



Another check-point?



Güdd... Zrädjzmo... Zsálu endzoekhoszd.



Well, it's the first time I've ever seen that... It's incredible! A flying check-point!

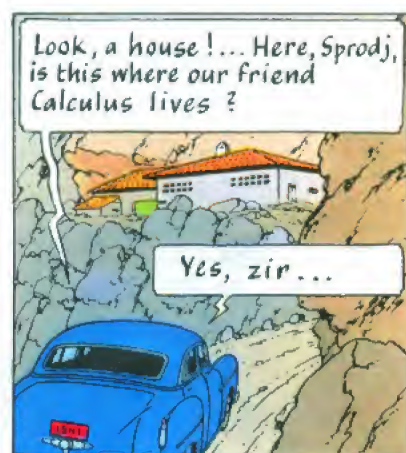


B.H.15 calling Control... B.H.15 calling Control... Expedition "Bluebell" passed check-point... All in order...



What's all this checking business? Where are we, and where are they taking us?

That's what I'm wondering.



Look, a house!... Here, Sprodj, is this where our friend Calculus lives?

Yes, zir...



What's possessed him to come and nest up here? I simply... Blistering barnacles! Another check-point!



Thundering typhoons! What's going on in this country? Anyone would think there's a war on!



And now that baboon's gone off with our papers! What's he doing with them?



P.K.1 calling Control... P.K.1 calling Control... Expedition "Bluebell" has arrived... All in order... Open the doors...



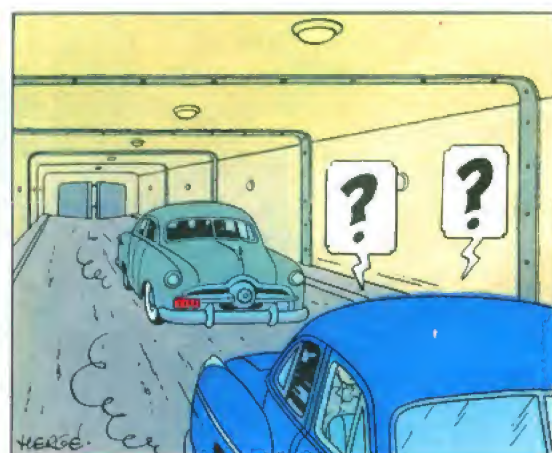
Güdd!... Zrädjzmo!... Zsoe gnounh dzoeteuih ebb touhn...

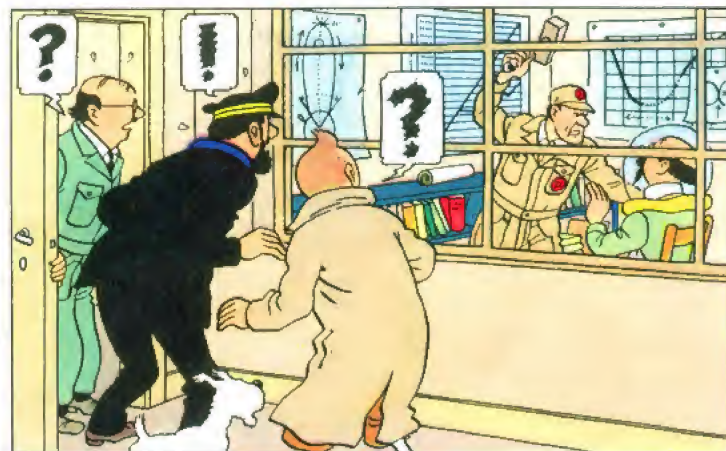
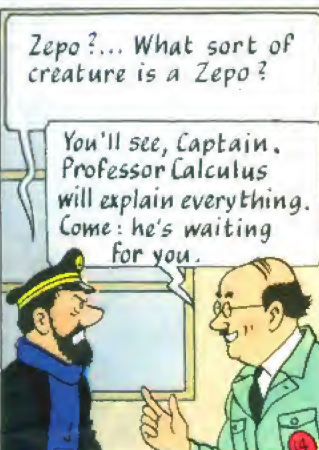
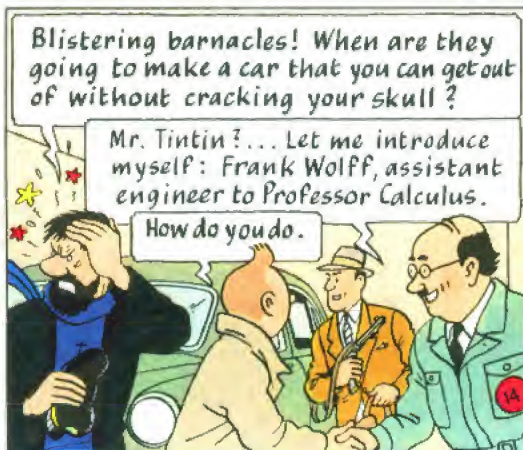
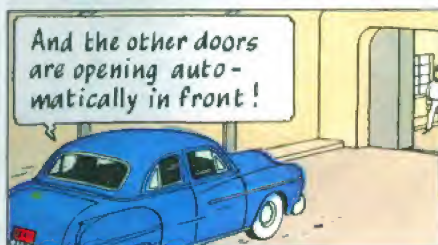
Ah, all's well... We can go on.

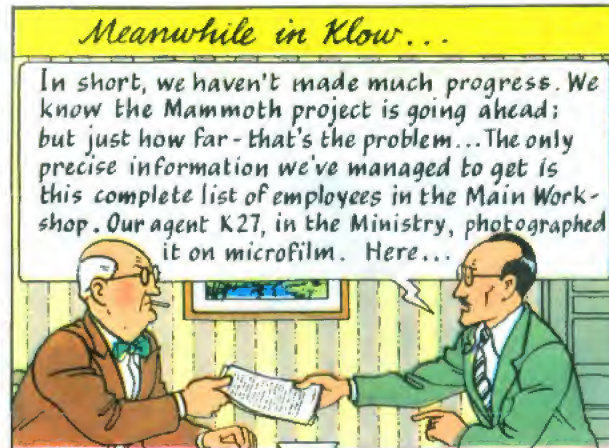
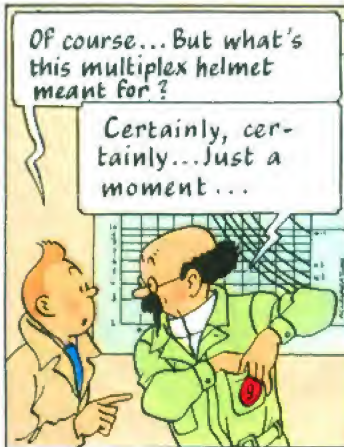
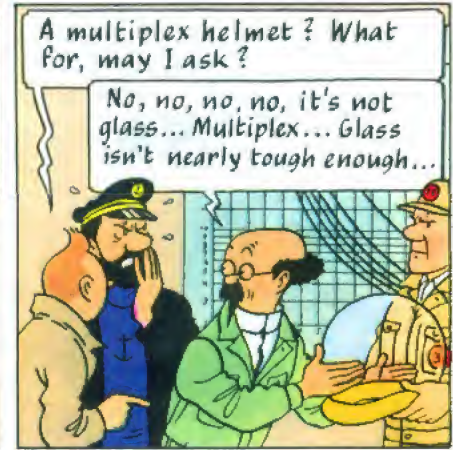
Güdd!



Thundering typhoons, what's happening? Are we driving straight into the garage? ...That's an odd sort of welcome!





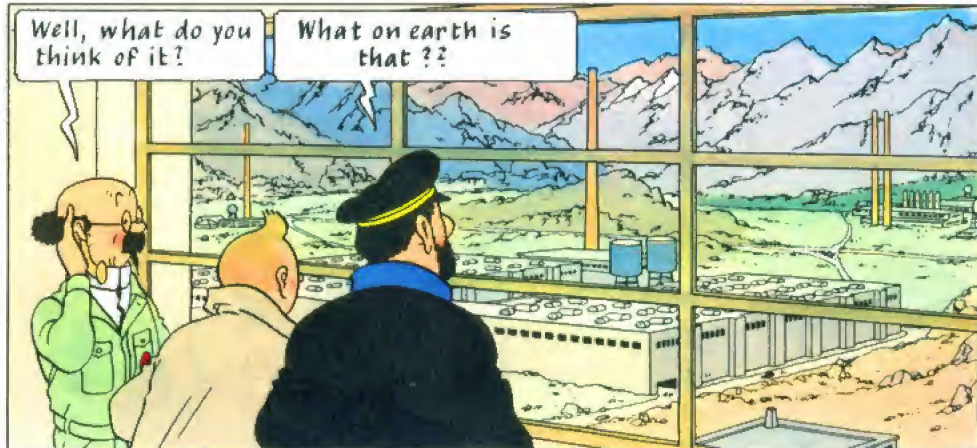


Come in here: I want to show you something...



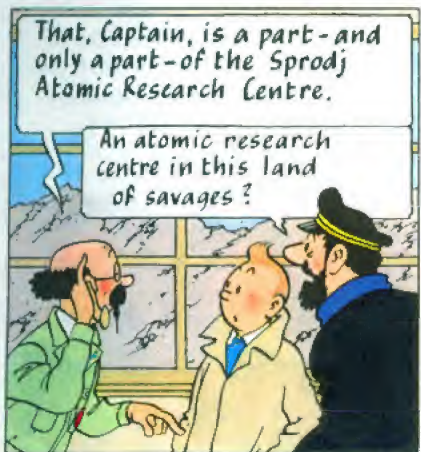
Well, what do you think of it?

What on earth is that??

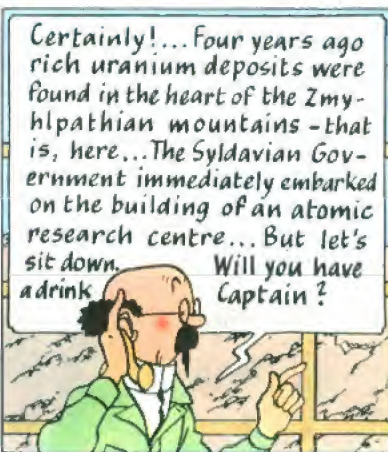


That, Captain, is a part - and only a part - of the Sprodj Atomic Research Centre.

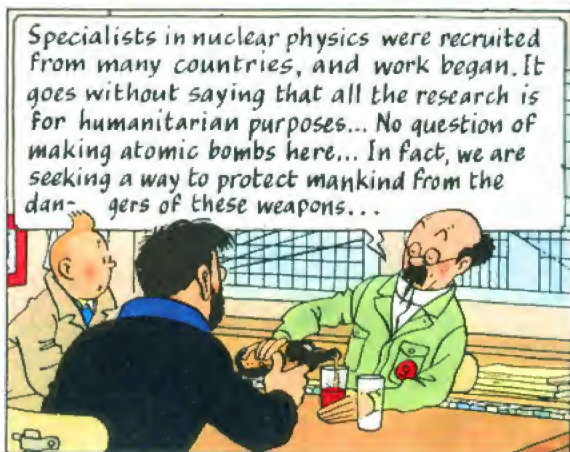
An atomic research centre in this land of savages?



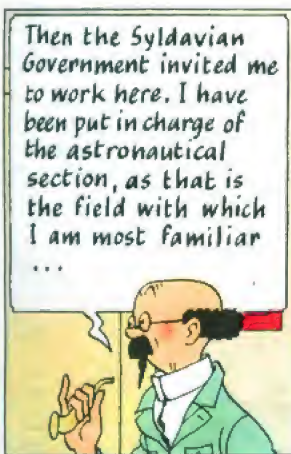
Certainly!... Four years ago rich uranium deposits were found in the heart of the Zmyhlpathian mountains - that is, here... The Syldavian Government immediately embarked on the building of an atomic research centre... But let's sit down. Will you have a drink Captain?



Specialists in nuclear physics were recruited from many countries, and work began. It goes without saying that all the research is for humanitarian purposes... No question of making atomic bombs here... In fact, we are seeking a way to protect mankind from the dangers of these weapons...



Then the Syldavian Government invited me to work here. I have been put in charge of the astronomical section, as that is the field with which I am most familiar...



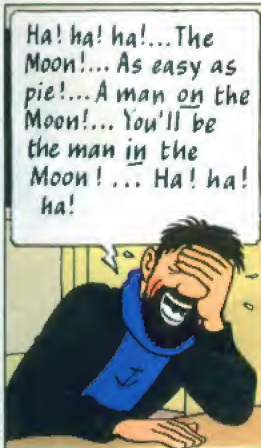
I have been very ably supported by my engineer, Frank Wolff. You met him earlier. And I'm just completing plans for a nuclear-powered rocket in which I propose to land ON THE MOON...



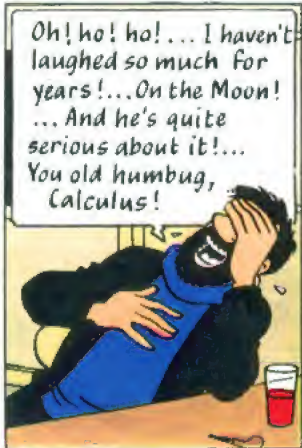
Ha! ha! ha! ha!... The Moon!... Old Calculus on the Moon! Ha! ha! ha!... The things you think of!... The Moon!... That's a good one!...



Ha! ha! ha!... The Moon!... As easy as pie!... A man on the Moon!... You'll be the man in the Moon!... Ha! ha! ha!



Oh! ho! ho!... I haven't laughed so much for years!... On the Moon!... And he's quite serious about it!... You old humbug, Calculus!



Here's to you!... Ha! ha! ha! Passengers for the Moon, all aboard the bus!... Sorry, the rocket!... You are taking passengers, I hope?



Of course!... Why else do you think I asked you to join me?...

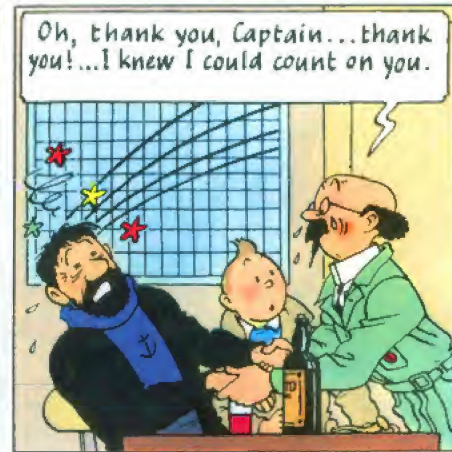




Eh?... What?... What are you saying?



Me?... On the Moon!... With you?... Blistering barnacles! your brain's gone radioactive! On the Moon!... You'd just push me around, like that, without a word!... On the Moon!!! I'll never set foot in your infernal rocket, d'you hear me? Thundering typhoons!... Never!



Oh, thank you, Captain... thank you!... I knew I could count on you.



Good evening, gentlemen.



Ah, Mr. Baxter. May I introduce Captain Haddock? Mr. Baxter, the Captain is most enthusiastic. He says he and our good friend Tintin will be delighted to travel with me to the Moon.

Excuse me... I...



How do you do, Captain. The best of luck! The Professor told me that you were a man of remarkable capacity: I see he wasn't exaggerating.

Mr. Baxter is the Director General of the Centre

But I...

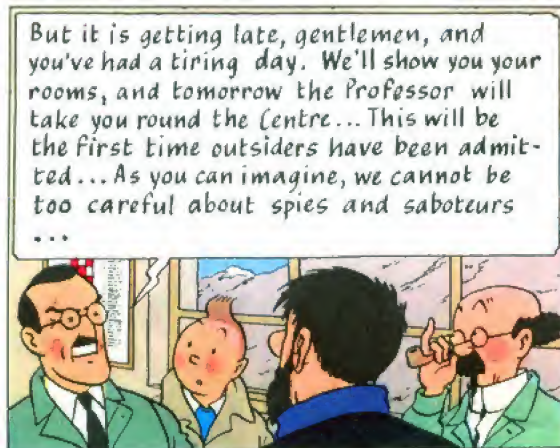


No, no, don't be modest: a character such as yours is rare, all too rare... I congratulate you, and I envy you. ... You will have a unique privilege: the first man to set foot on our great satellite... the Moon!



I congratulate you too, young man. In this perilous venture you will represent the eager spirit of youth. That's splendid...

Yes... er... No... I mean...



But it is getting late, gentlemen, and you've had a tiring day. We'll show you your rooms, and tomorrow the Professor will take you round the Centre... This will be the first time outsiders have been admitted... As you can imagine, we cannot be too careful about spies and saboteurs...



Night falls. All is quiet. Down the long, silent corridors, guards are on patrol...



Patrol 14 calling Control... Nothing to report...



All the same, "They" go a bit far... This inspection is absurd... Who could possibly get in here?...



By St. Vladimir!

Patrol 14 calling Control!... Patrol 14 calling Control!... Emergency!... Dense brown smoke filling corridors in H Sector... Send security squads at once!

Control calling Security... Emergency! Dense smoke reported in corridors, H Sector...

RRRING RRRING RRRING RRRRRRING

RRRING RRRRING RRRRING

Zzzzz
Zzzzz
Zzzzz

RRRRRRING

Professor! Wake up, Professor!... The alarm bell!... Time to get up already?

What's happening? Fire!... All out!

Well, this is a fine start!...

This looks serious... All out!... All out!

Ah, there's Professor Calculus...

Hello Tintin. What a to-do! Dreadful!... What did you say?

I say, Professor, why are you using the Captain's pipe for an ear-trumpet?... The Captain's pipe!... THE CAPTAIN'S PIPE!

Well I never, it's the Captain's pipe!... I thought I wasn't hearing very well...

It's in here! Quick, use the foam.

You thundering nitwitted sea-gherkins!

You Polynesians, you! You've been smart, haven't you? You Ku-Klux-Klan! Just when I was putting it out myself...

Putting out what?



This confounded ear-trumpet! I filled it and lit it, thinking it was my pipe. It started to burn: no flame: just this blistering smoke!

Oh I see: it's made of ebonite!



The next morning...

The Professor asked me to give you this... He's rather busy himself this morning, so he suggested that I take you round the Centre... You'd better put on these overalls; then you can go round without being stopped continually by ZEPO.



The Zepo again?... Look here, just what is a Zepo?

The ZEPO?... ZE-PO... Zekrett Politzs... They are the special police responsible for guarding the atomic area, for anti-sabotage precautions and for counter-espionage.



On that score the ZEPO have plenty to do... Despite all our precautions, certain powers know that we are building a moon-rocket and their spies are actively interested. Happily for us they can only succeed if they have inside men. And even these would have to be senior staff... But we need have no worries about that... Now I'll leave you to put on your overalls.



Meanwhile...

Send this in code, my dear Baron: "A.K.R. 12 to N.W.3. R. In contact at top level with Main Workshop..."



We are now in the central laboratories where the natural uranium - which comes to us in thin metal rods - is converted into plutonium... Plutonium will be used to power Professor Calculus's rock- et.



There are two principal stages in the production of plutonium: first the "cooking" of the uranium rods in the atomic pile which you will see in a minute; then the chemical extraction of the plutonium produced in the rods by the "cooking"... You follow me?

Of course!... I'm right behind you.



Through this entrance is the bay housing the atomic pile... Have your passes ready.

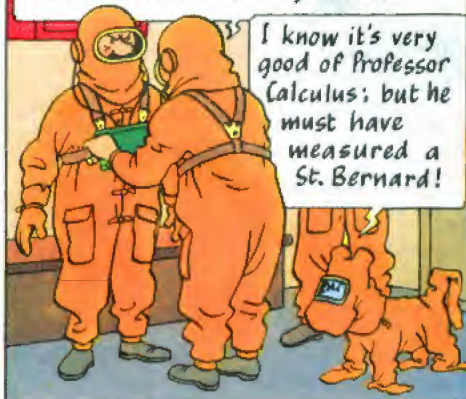


That's that. Now we'll go and put on the special clothing to protect us against radioactivity... By the way, with his usual thoughtfulness Professor Calculus remembered your dog; he's had a suit made for him - just the right size.

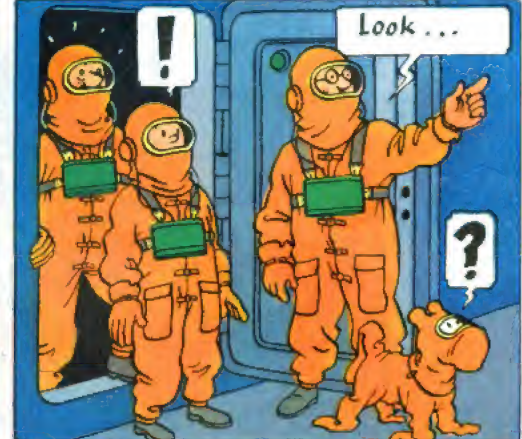


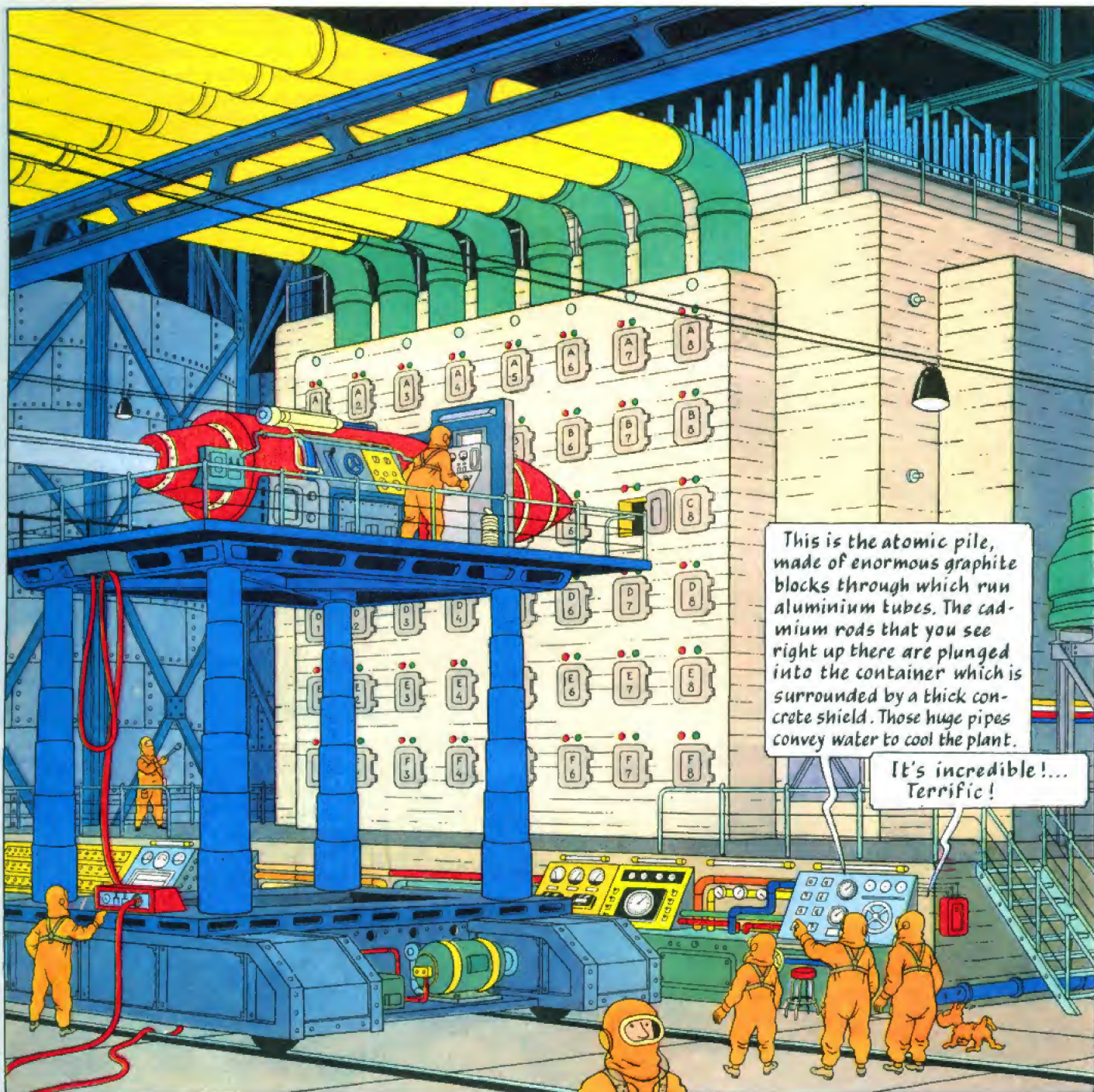
There... Now we can go in...

I know it's very good of Professor Calculus; but he must have measured a St. Bernard!



Look...





This is the atomic pile, made of enormous graphite blocks through which run aluminium tubes. The cadmium rods that you see right up there are plunged into the container which is surrounded by a thick concrete shield. Those huge pipes convey water to cool the plant.

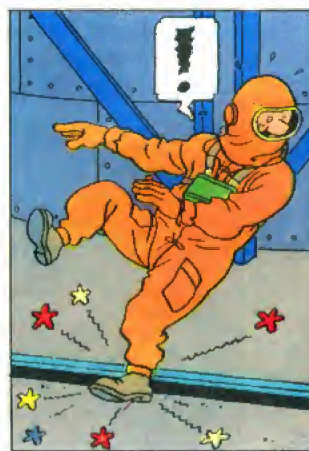
It's incredible!... Terrific!



Isn't it? But come over here; it looks even more impressive ...
It's fantastic!



Stupendous! ... Fabulous! ... [t... er...

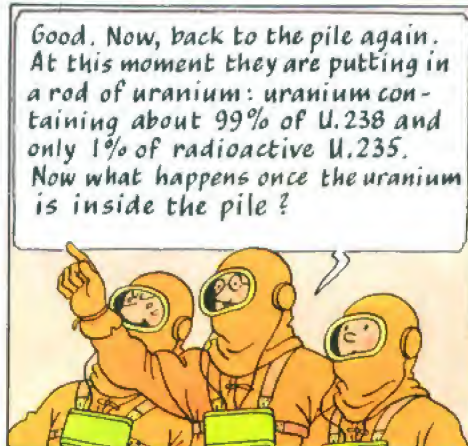


Bowls you over! That's what you were going to say, wasn't it, Captain?

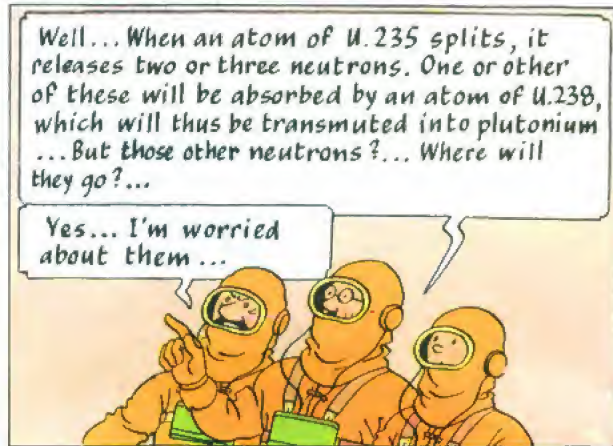


I hope you aren't hurt? ...

Hurt?... Oh no!
... Nothing at all!



Good. Now, back to the pile again. At this moment they are putting in a rod of uranium: uranium containing about 99% of U.238 and only 1% of radioactive U.235. Now what happens once the uranium is inside the pile?



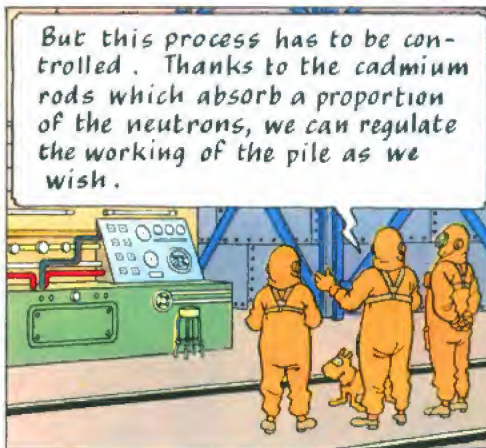
Well... When an atom of U.235 splits, it releases two or three neutrons. One or other of these will be absorbed by an atom of U.238, which will thus be transmuted into plutonium ... But those other neutrons?... Where will they go?...

Yes... I'm worried about them ...

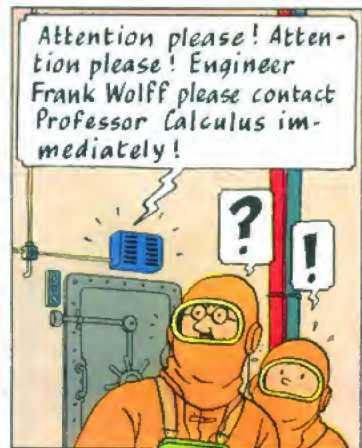


Restricted by the graphite that surrounds them, they continue through the pile, and end up by hitting one of the rare atoms of U.235. These in their turn split and release two or three neutrons again... You see?

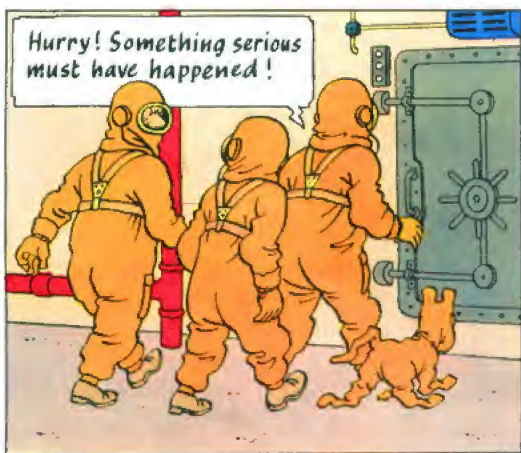
Of course! It's child's play...



But this process has to be controlled. Thanks to the cadmium rods which absorb a proportion of the neutrons, we can regulate the working of the pile as we wish.



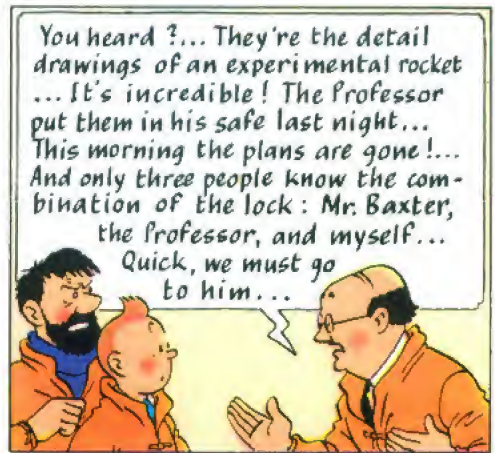
Attention please! Attention please! Engineer Frank Wolff please contact Professor Calculus immediately!



Hurry! Something serious must have happened!



Hello!... Hello!... Professor Calculus?... This is Frank Wolff... You... How... What?... The plans?... Gone??... Yes, we'll come at once.



You heard?... They're the detail drawings of an experimental rocket ... It's incredible! The Professor put them in his safe last night... This morning the plans are gone!... And only three people know the combination of the lock: Mr. Baxter, the Professor, and myself... Quick, we must go to him...



Just when is someone going to let me out of this fancy - dress?



A few minutes later...

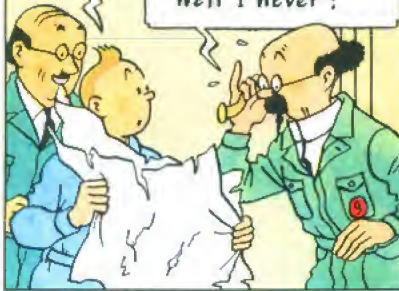
And this morning when I opened the safe, look what I found: old newspapers instead of the plans...

We'd never hear the end of it if I rummaged in a dustbin! You'd do better to let me out of this duffle coat with a windscreen!



Excuse me, Professor, I may be mistaken, but I found these in the waste-paper basket. Aren't they the plans you're looking for?

Well I never!



I... Why, so they are!... But how could I? I'm terribly sorry... In a moment of absent-mindedness last night I must have put the plans in the basket, and locked up these old newspapers...



How lucky to have found them! These are plans of an experimental rocket we are just getting ready. Come, I'll show you... It's a model of the rocket which will, one day, take us to the Moon...



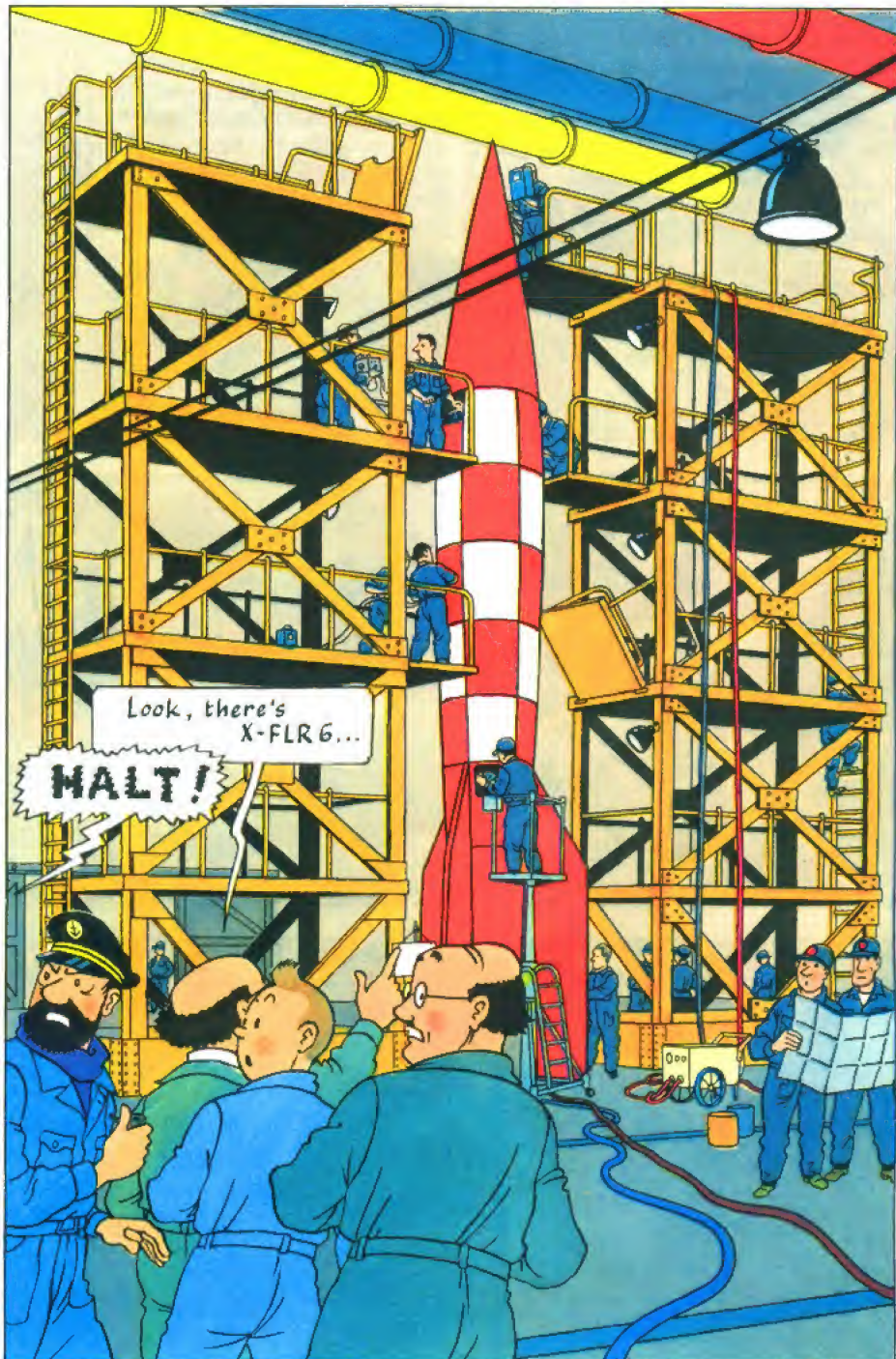
As you know, the Moon travels round the Earth, always showing the one face. The other side is completely unknown. The radio-controlled rocket we are going to launch will circumnavigate the Moon...

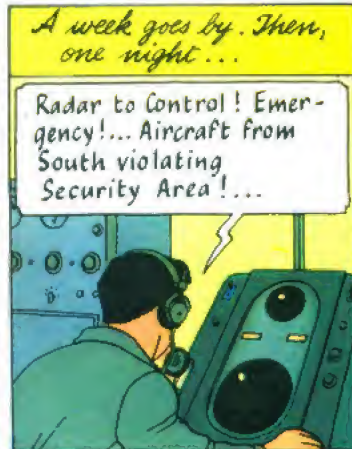
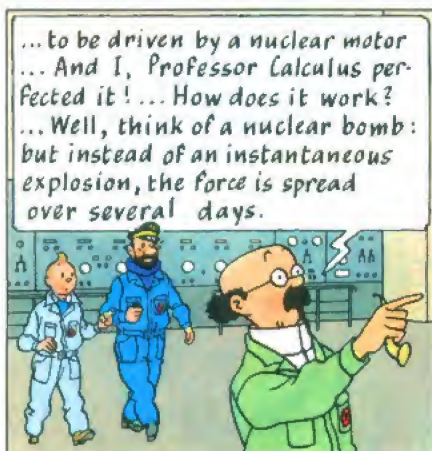
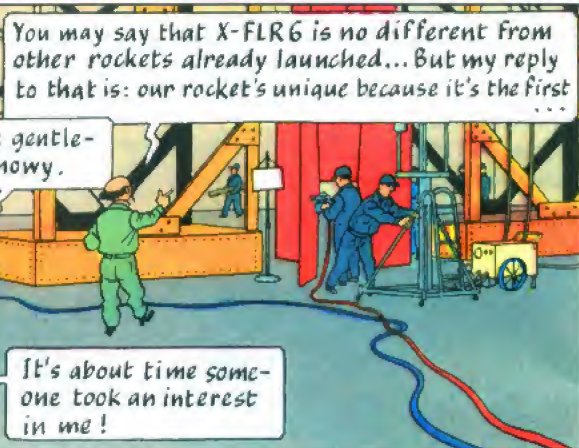


... and take photographs of the other side—the face which is, and always will be, invisible from the Earth. If only from the point of view of astronomy this will be of tremendous interest. But that is not our only objective. Needless to say the rocket...



... X-FLR 6, as we have called it, will carry a full range of instruments. When these are recovered they will give us invaluable information for our own trip to the Moon...





Attention please!... Control calling!... Emergency!... Aircraft from South violating Security Area... Fighters and A.A. personnel to action stations



Sprodj Control to unidentified aircraft. Are you receiving me?... You are violating a Security Area... If you proceed you are liable to be forced down ...



They've spotted us!... They're ordering us to turn back!

At all costs don't answer them: we aren't over the right place yet.



Sprodj Control to unidentified aircraft. I repeat, if you do not clear Security Area, we will open fire.



We hadn't bargained for this! They say they'll shoot!

Answer with a few odd words to make them think we're in trouble... We must play for time...



... craft... F... R... receive... lost... course... please... our... posi...



A plane must have lost its way. Their radio is intermittent. They're trying to answer us. What shall we do?



This is it! Jump!



Radar to Control!... Three parachutists have just jumped from the plane!



Control calling!... Order the Ack-Ack to open fire!



BOOM BOOM BOOM

Crumbs! It wasn't a dream: that's Ack-Ack fire!



TIUUUUUUW

That's an unexploded shell coming down!



Zzzzzzz... Zzzzzzz...



Great snakes! It went off in the Professor's room! Quick! I must hurry!



Who is it? Did someone knock?

Next morning...

Attention please! All personnel in category "A" please report at once to Mr. Baxter for an important announcement...

Category "A"?... That's us!

Yes. Come on!

Gentlemen, there have been serious incidents during the night... An unidentified aircraft flew over the Security Area. It eluded our fighters and anti-aircraft fire, and dropped three parachutists. The parachute of one failed to open and he was killed. His body was found this morning. He was carrying rations, arms, and a radio set, but of course no identification papers...

Till now the other two parachutists have evaded capture. Needless to say everything is being done to find them. They will undoubtedly be caught forthwith. Meanwhile, gentlemen, I ask for your co-operation...

Operation?... Who's he talking about, having an operation?... Is somebody ill?

... and would like to impress on you, my senior executives, the need for constant vigilance. This daring raid proves that even the strictest precautions cannot stop desperate men.

Thank you, gentlemen, that will be all. May I just have a word with the X-FLR6 team...

Perhaps your ear-trumpet is blocked?

Not in the least: it's just blocked, that's all.

You see? It's plaster... from that explosion last night... No, it won't come out like this...

Let's see, perhaps if I shake it...

Well, Professor, what are you up to now?

OH! Blistering barnacles! I thought that sort of thing only happened to me!

I'm terribly sorry...

Don't mention it!

Excuse me: the telephone...

RRRRING

Hello... Yes... What?... Captured the parachutists?... Both of them?... Splendid!... Greeks, you say?... That's odd. Bring them here immediately. I'll question them myself.

A few minutes later

... You've got the strong end of the wick... no, I mean...

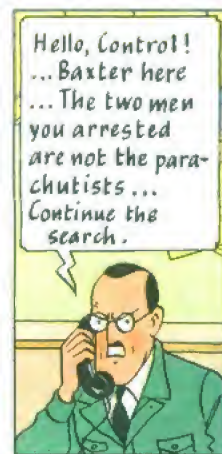
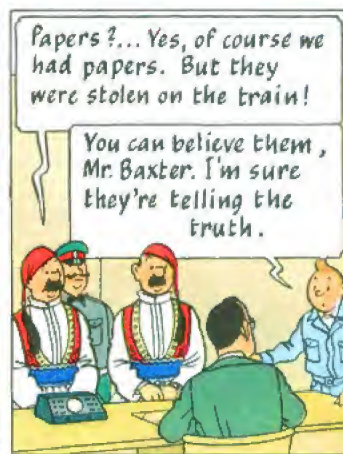
Silence!

RAT TAT TAT

To be precise: the stick!

These are the two birds, sir.

This is it!... Sensational appearance of the Thomson twins!



Supposing these mysterious parachutists had an accomplice within the Centre who wanted to hand over the plans... How would they set about it?... All the entrances are guarded!... No



You see, Snowy, before we left I spent a long time studying a plan of the Centre. And I found two ventilators no one bothers to guard. They think they're inaccessible... Well, I believe there's a way of getting at them...



Let's see, where's the first one?... There!... Yes, that's it... No, you can't reach that; it's a sheer drop... Where's the other one...



There it is!... Well I think there's a way to approach that one... Come on, Snowy, we'll take a closer look.



So there's our ventilator!



I'm going to look. You guard my rucksack, Snowy - and no noise! Those parachutists can't be far away.



There you go! Acrobatics again! You'll break every bone in your body one day!



It's just as I thought. This must be where the spies contact their inside accomplice... I...



?

WOOAH! WOOAH!



A BEAR CUB!

WOOAH! WOOAH!



It must have been attracted by the smell of the honey sandwiches in my rucksack...



Well, if you like them, take one... Enjoy yourself, little greedy-guts!



There he goes, without waiting for more!... And he didn't even say thank you!



That's that, eh, Snowy my boy? Here's a piece for you.



Hey, Snowy, what's the matter?





Steady! Steady! You bunch of gluttons!



Crumbs! Here come the parents! That crowns it!



There! Those are for you! Go and get them!



Quick Snowy! Now's our chance to give them the slip. We'll make our way up there.



Funny sort of lift!



Here we are... The first thing is to warn the Captain.

The first thing is to let me down!



Hello, hello!... Hello, Captain?... Yes, it's me. I think I've got it... Yes... J Sector... Corridor 7... Ventilator 3... Yes... I can count on you?



Trust me!... You said J Sector, Corridor 7, Ventilator 3... Right! No, no, not a word to a soul!



Well... all we can do is await events... Here, Snowy. We must wrap up well; it's a chilly night.



What's that?... I heard a noise!



That's one of the parachutists!... But where's the other?



He's approaching the grating... Someone's handing him papers... Now's my moment to join in!



Hands up!

?



Well done, Jim!

BANG

At that moment,
inside the Centre...

That's a
shot!

From outside!
... I... Hey, I've
got someone!...
Oh, I've lost
him!

Wooa-aa-aa-aah...

Got him again!
... Quick, help
me hold him!

Where are you?
... Ah, there!

Let me go! Here,
let me go!... It's
me, Frank Wolff!

Ah, the lights have gone
on again... Why it's Mr. Wolff!

That's what I tried
to tell you!... Mean-
while he's got away...

OH!

Great Scotland
Yard! Who's that?

The Captain! He's been
knocked out!

Now then, what's the meaning
of all this hullabaloo?

Mr. Baxter!

That's Snowy howling,
Mr. Baxter. Something
must have happened to
Tintin. Hurry! He's out
there, near the venti-
lator grid.

Hello, Control?... Bax-
ter here... Send a
search party at once
to look for Tintin...
Outside... J Sector...
Corridor 7... Ventilator
3... Hurry!... Keep me
informed at Post 18.

Now Captain, tell me what
happened to you.

It's like this... Tintin went
off this morning, saying he
was going to try to catch
the parachutists... About
five o'clock he called me by
radio: he was convinced he'd
found the place where the
intruders...

... would try to contact their accom-
plices. According to him it was the
ventilator grid in this corridor. Events
proved him right!... In the evening I
lay in wait here... It was well on into
the night when the lights suddenly
went out, leaving the corridor in
total darkness. I heard a rustling
beside me, and that moment I
thought my head had burst!

And you,
Wolff?

Well, I happened to see the Captain as he
left his quarters... There was something
... er... odd about him and it intrigued
me... I followed him. When he hid, I
did the same... Time passed... Then, as
he said, the current went off. I heard
a dull thud, and the sound of a body
falling... I leapt forward... There was
a shot outside... then shouts... Someone
jostled me in the dark... And then I found my-
self in the hands of these men.

Very odd...

And what are you doing
here at this hour gentle-
men?

In all sincerity
Director-General,
I can solemnly
and truthfully
say...

BHOOP

BHOOP

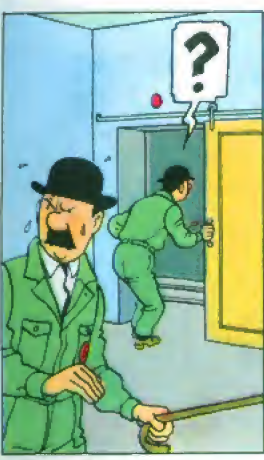
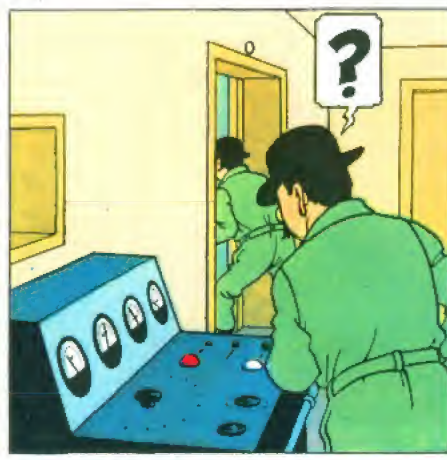
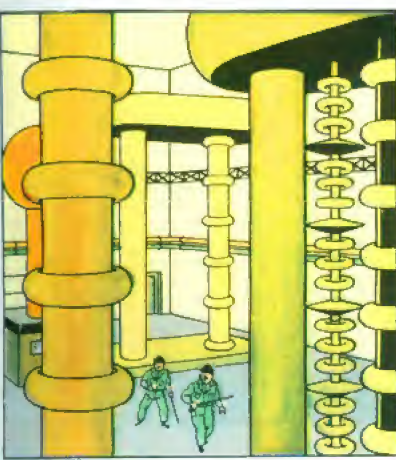
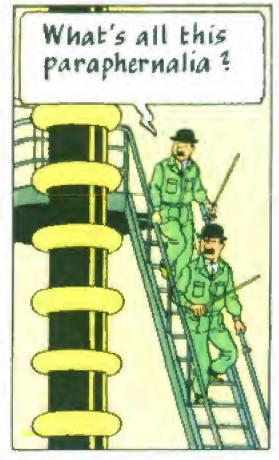
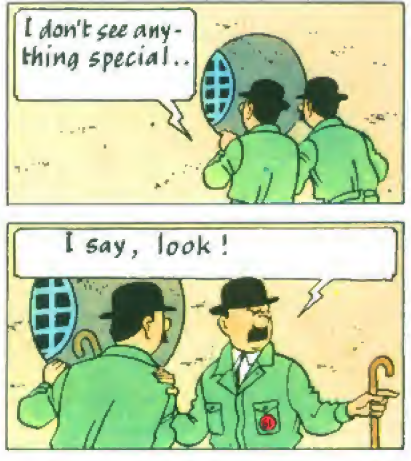
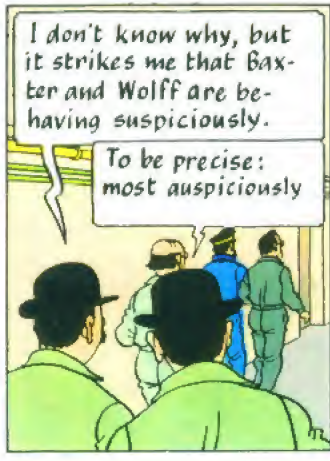
RRRRING

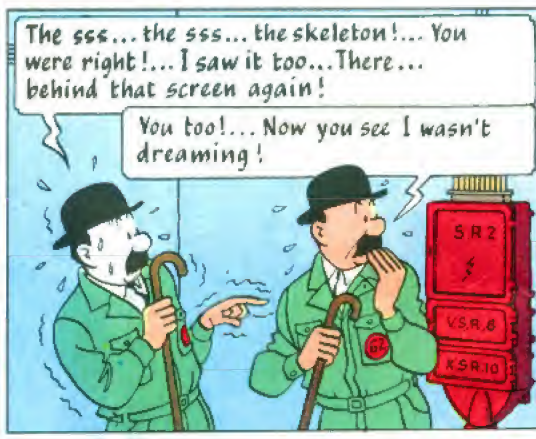
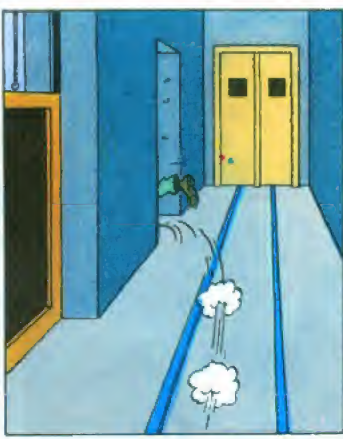
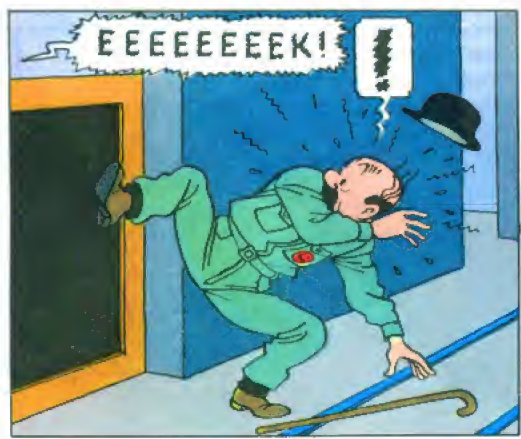
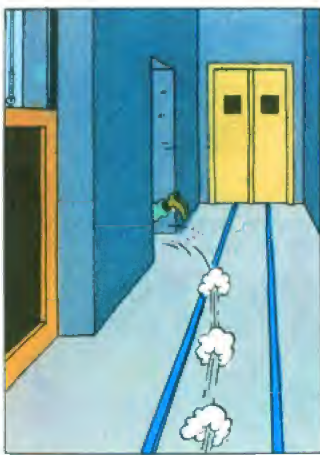
Oh! The
telephone...

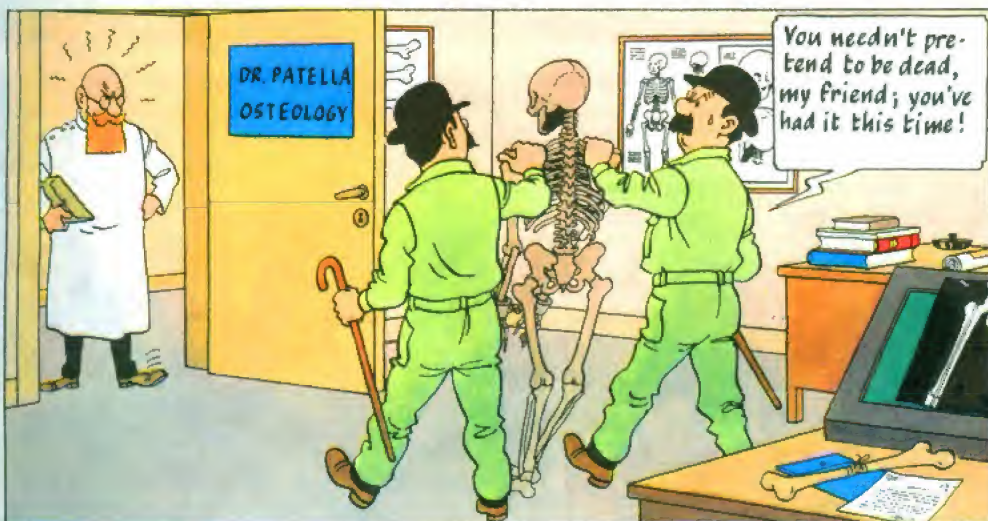
Forgive us... It's some extraordinary
pills we once took... in Arabia¹... Their
effect recurs some- times.

Hello!... Yes... You've found him?
He's hurt?... What did he say?...
Oh, he's unconscious... In the
sick-bay?... You're waiting for the
doctor?... All right, I'm coming at once.

¹ See Tintin in the Land of Black Gold







Meanwhile...

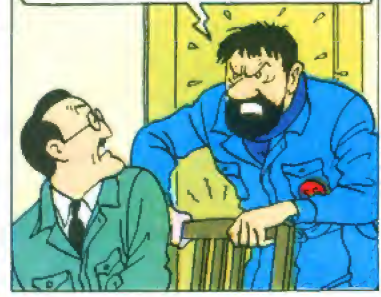
No, luckily it's nothing serious. The bullet only grazed the skull... Of course, it was a violent blow. But he's come round completely now, and you can question him.



...Then I leapt forward and shouted "Hands up!"... He obeyed... At that moment I heard an explosion, and instantly I felt a terrific crack on my head... It was the other parachutist, whom I hadn't seen. To save his accomplice he fired at me.



The gangsters!... The pirates! ... If I get my hands on those crooks, I'll tear them apart like... like... like...



CRACK



I... Forgive me, Mr. Baxter... I'm terribly sorry... Wait... I'll get you another chair.



No need, thank you! ... Where were we?... Oh yes... The next thing is to find out which documents are missing. And above all, we must unmask the traitor in our midst, spying on all our activities.



I'm afraid that won't be easy. Now the fellow has achieved his object he will try to be inconspicuous. As for our discovering which documents he gave to his accomplices. I'm certain he won't have been foolish enough to steal the originals, and so help us to narrow our search.



To my mind he would simply have made copies. If I hadn't been there tonight the spy would have handed over his stuff to his accomplice, quite quietly, with no one any the wiser.



You're right!.. But still, we'll continue our inquiry. Meanwhile I'll ask Calculus to speed up preparations for launching the trial rocket... With that I'll leave you... Get well soon.



Are you coming, Captain?

If I may, I'll stay with Tintin.



Look Captain, it's late and...

None of that!... I'm staying here!... A full pipe and a comfortable chair, that's all I ask...



Some weeks later. The day for the launching of the trial rocket has arrived.

Well, Professor?

Everything is ready, Mr. Baxter. The last guide rails are in place ... The gantries have been removed. The technicians are now...

... completing the fuelling - up.

Hello, Mr. Baxter... Look who's here...

See! They've almost finished.

Tintin! You?... I thought you were still confined to your room.

I am, in theory! But I wouldn't miss the launching of the trial rocket for anything.

Look, Mr. Baxter. Tintin's better!

Finished!

Finished!... Everything's ready. I'll clear the bay.

Good idea... But don't forget to clear the bay!

Oh! I'm sorry!

All very well to apologise! Why doesn't he look where he's going!

At any rate, I'll be safe up here!

Ah, peace at last!

Woah!

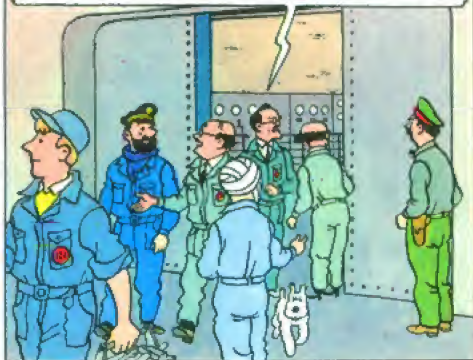
Attention please!... Clear the launching bay... Attention please!... Clear the bay...

Clear the launching bay!

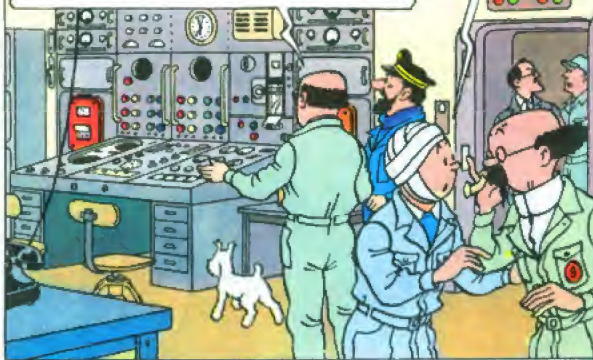
I repeat...

All right! I heard!

All out?... Splendid!... We can go to the Control Room.



This is it... From here we shall control the rocket during its flight.



I say, Professor...

... Did you remember the gadget I mentioned to you when you came to see me in the sick-bay?

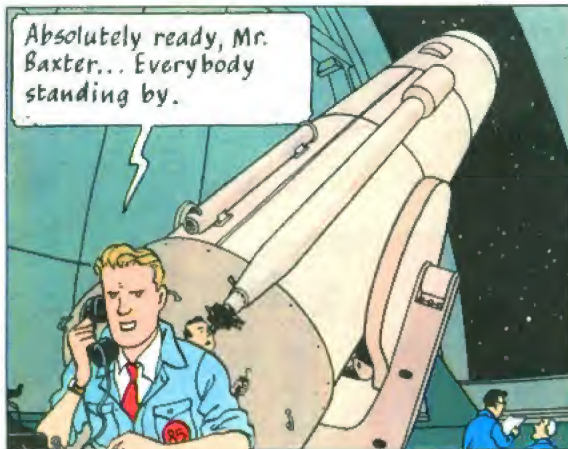
The gadget?... Oh, yes, it's done. I fixed it this evening...



Hello? Observatory?... Is that you, Michael?... Baxter here. I'm in the Control Room. All ready?



Absolutely ready, Mr. Baxter... Everybody standing by.



Yes, Radar here... Yes, Mr. Baxter, we're all ready...



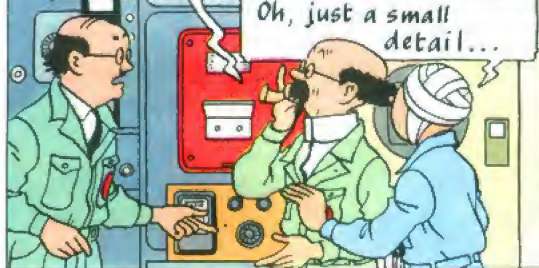
Well, now we can only wait for zero hour... Another twenty minutes.



Why, what's this little device, Professor? It wasn't here last night!

I... yes... I put it there... It's an idea of Tintin's.

Oh, just a small detail...



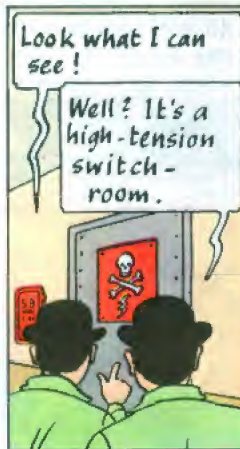
Meanwhile...

All the same it was fishy about that skeleton...



Look what I can see!

Well? It's a high-tension switch-room.



It may look like a power switch-room. But supposing it isn't, eh? We'll investigate. Here's my master key.

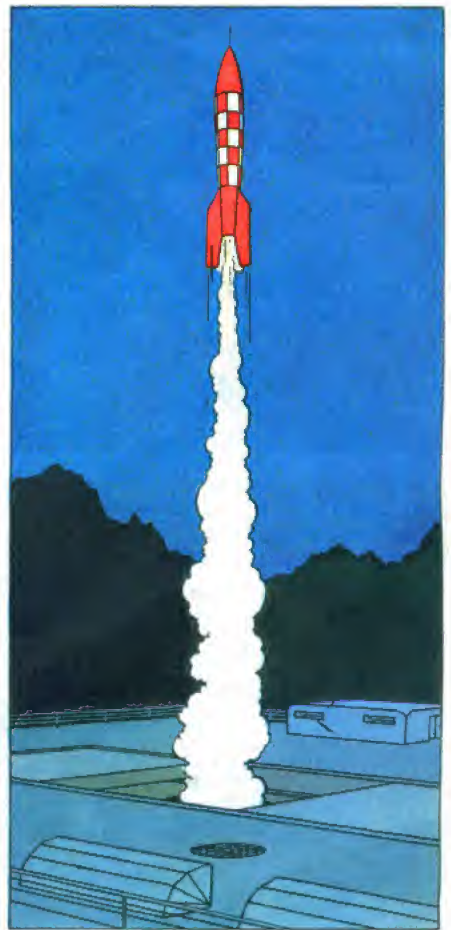
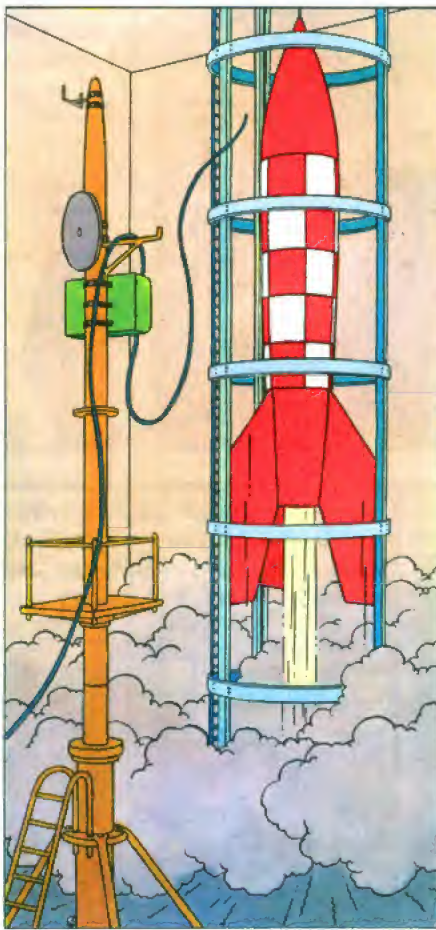
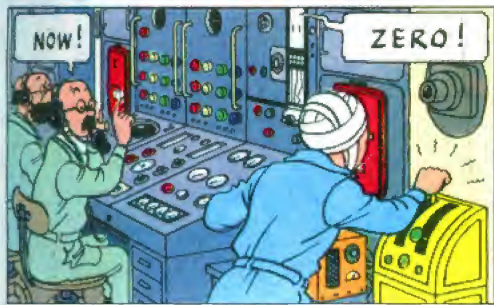
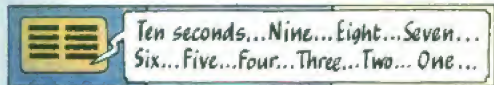
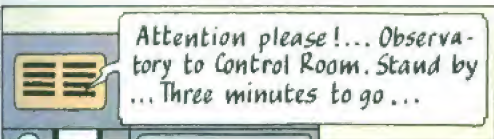
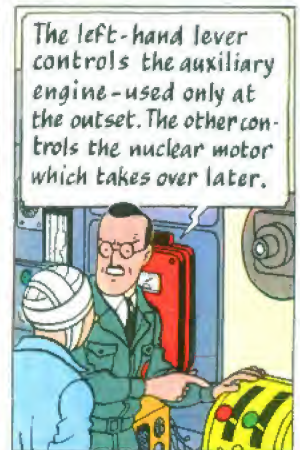
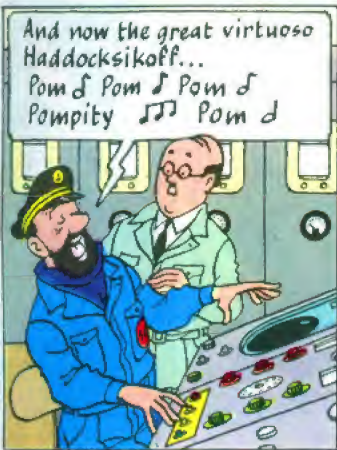
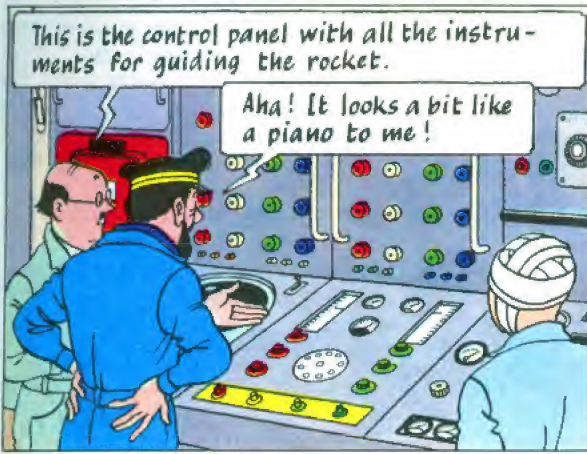


All the same, be careful.



I'm not a child, am I?... Anyway, I...







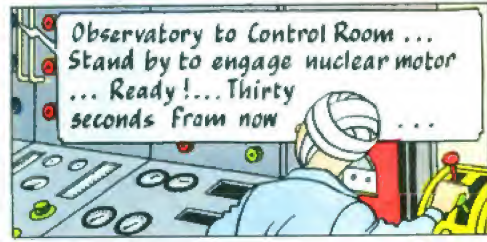
There she goes! For the first time in history man is sending a rocket to the Moon and back!



The Moon and back!... Do you realise what those little words mean: THE MOON AND BACK!



Oh dear, I'm so sorry! ... But how lucky your pipe wasn't in your mouth!



Observatory to Control Room ... Stand by to engage nuclear motor ... Ready!... Thirty seconds from now ...



Twenty seconds to go...

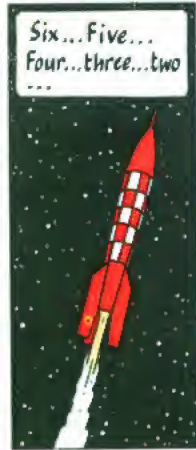
Blistering barnacles, where's my pipe?



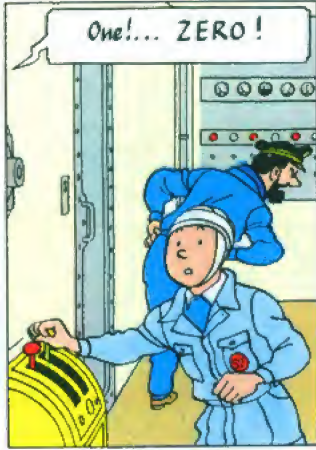
Ten seconds to go... Nine ... Eight... Seven ...

Have you seen my pipe anywhere?

I'm sorry, not now...



Six...Five... Four...three...two ...



One!... ZERO!



Observatory to Control Room...The nuclear motor has just taken over... All going well. Cut the auxiliary engine.



Have you seen my pipe?

?

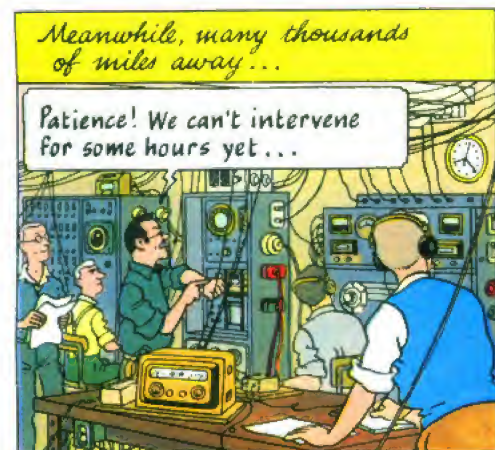


Your pipe? What would I want with your pipe? ... I'm sorry but I haven't time to worry about your pipe now!



Observatory to Control Room... How's the radar working?

Perfectly! All going well!



Meanwhile, many thousands of miles away...

Patience! We can't intervene for some hours yet...



Observatory to Control Room... Correction: zero...zero...eight... six... Please repeat.

Zero...zero... eight...six... Correction made...



A trifling correction, I think. But I'd better just check with my tables...



OH!

?



Goodness gracious, Captain! It's you!



Mind out or you'll bump your head!

BONK



Have you lost something?

Have I lost something?... What do you think I'm doing down here?... Picking four-leaf clover?



That goat Calculus! Where did he knock my pipe to?



Quiet Snowy!... Be quiet!...

Wooah! Wooah!



Blistering barnacles, will you be quiet!

Wooah! Wooah!



Captain, do please be sensible... Stop teasing the dog.

Me?... Me teasing him?



It's not me... It's him...

Wooah!



YEOW!



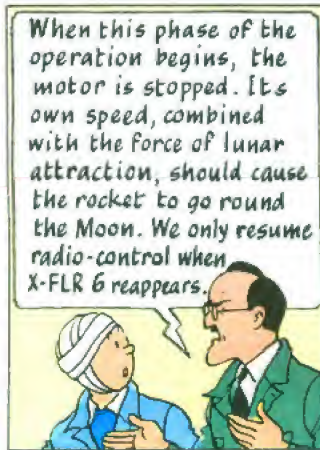
Attention please! Observatory calling! What was that shout we heard?

Don't worry... Captain Haddock's just found his pipe.



Many hours later...

Observatory to Control Room... In three minutes the rocket will enter its orbit round the Moon... Stand by ...



When this phase of the operation begins, the motor is stopped. Its own speed, combined with the force of lunar attraction, should cause the rocket to go round the Moon. We only resume radio-control when X-FLR 6 reappears.



Attention please! In thirty seconds cut the nuclear motor!... Ready!... Ten seconds to go... Nine... Eight... Seven... Six... Five... Four...

Three... Two... One... ZERO!



Observatory to Control Room... All in order... X-FLR 6 is safely in orbit round the Moon ...



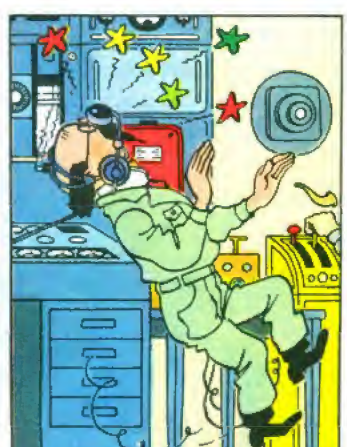
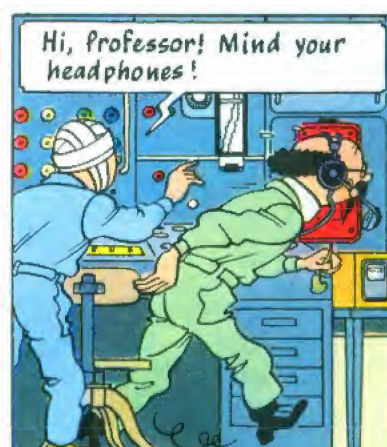
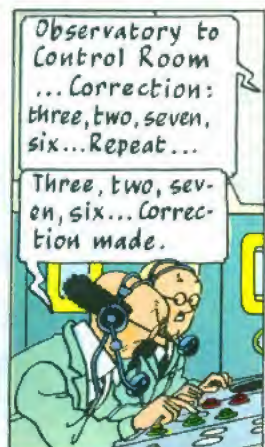
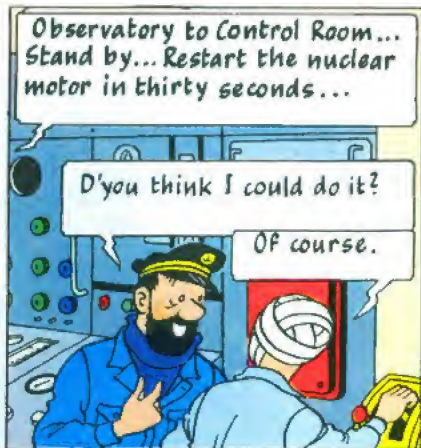
In thirty seconds she will be out of our sight.

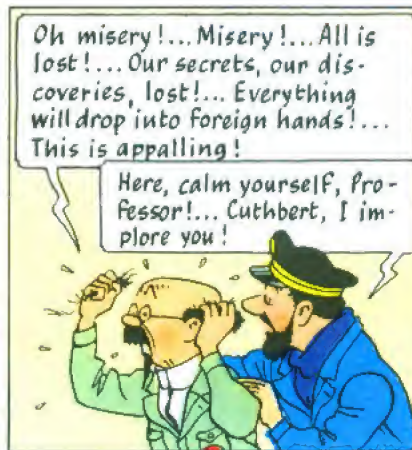
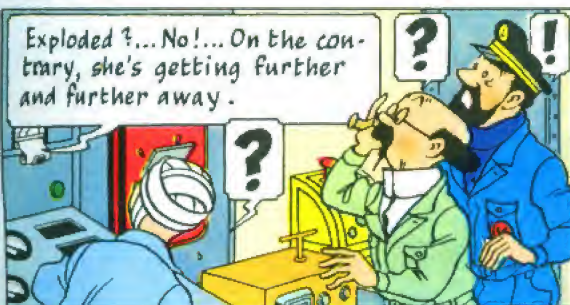
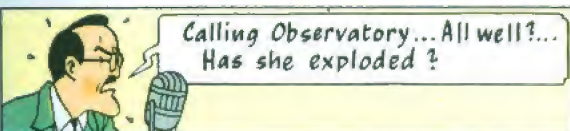
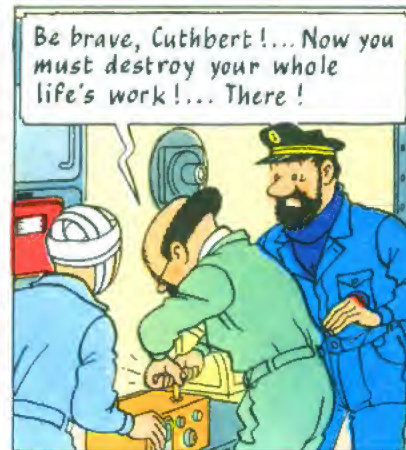
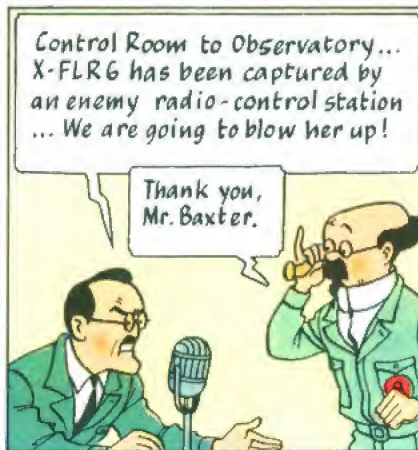
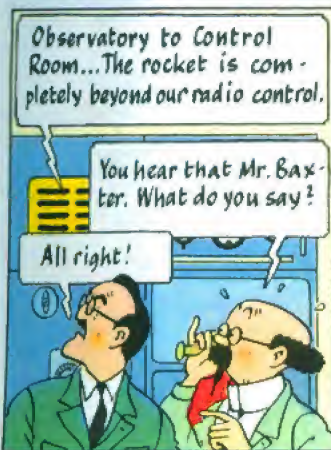
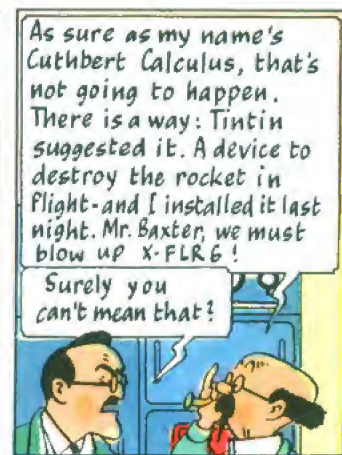
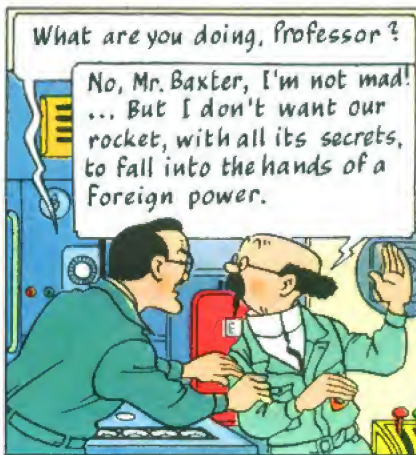
There... We can't see her any more.



Meanwhile...

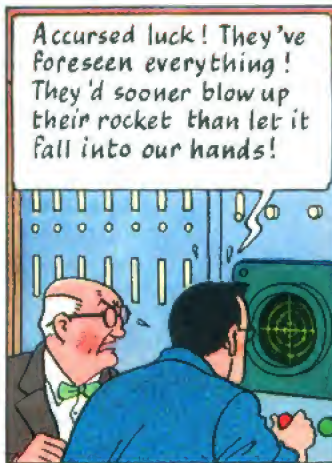
Now their rocket is masked by the Moon!... We go into action in a few minutes...



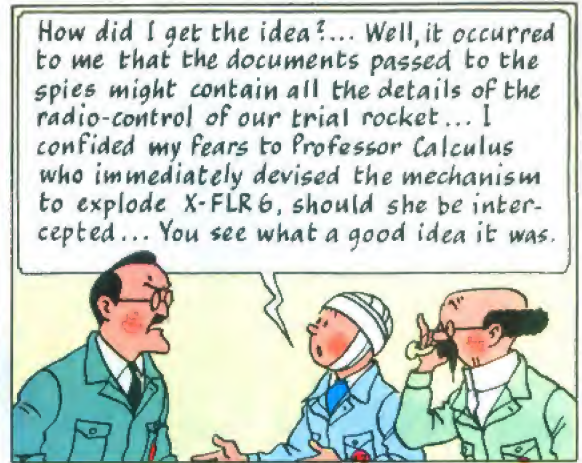




Observatory to Control Room...
X-FLR6 has exploded. There's
nothing more to see.



Accursed luck! They've
foreseen everything!
They'd sooner blow up
their rocket than let it
fall into our hands!

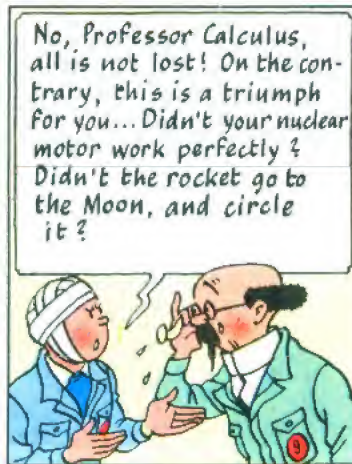


How did I get the idea?... Well, it occurred
to me that the documents passed to the
spies might contain all the details of the
radio-control of our trial rocket... I
confided my fears to Professor Calculus
who immediately devised the mechanism
to explode X-FLR6, should she be inter-
cepted... You see what a good idea it was.



Too true!... All too true!...
All our hopes brought to nothing
... Months, years of research and
struggle! All annihilated in a flash!

Look out for my beard!
Your grief's a bit
wild...



No, Professor Calculus,
all is not lost! On the con-
trary, this is a triumph
for you... Didn't your nuclear
motor work perfectly?
Didn't the rocket go to
the Moon, and circle
it?



Tintin is right! The
trial was conclusive.
Don't be so downhearted.
Tomorrow we start
work on another
rocket. But not an
experimental one -
this will be the
real Rocket, to carry
you to the Moon!

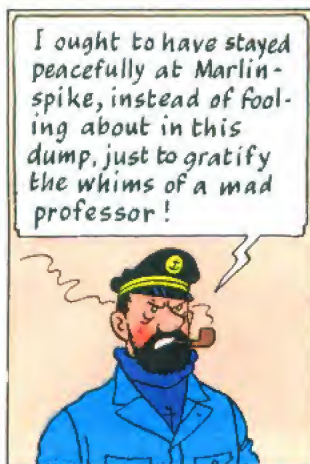


To the Moon!...
Hooray!



A fortnight later...

I'm fed up with hanging
about here, doing nothing.



I ought to have stayed
peacefully at Marlin-
spike, instead of fool-
ing about in this
dump, just to gratify
the whims of a mad
professor!

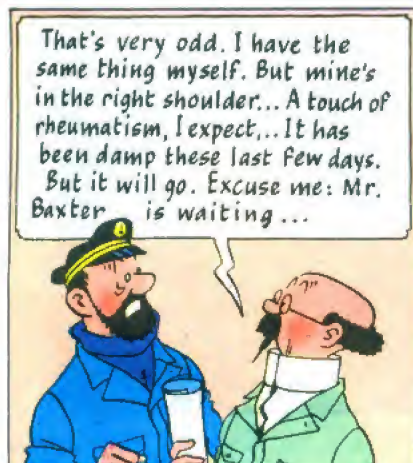


There he goes now
... I'll tell him a
thing or two! ...
Hi, Professor!



Look here, I've had enough of
going round in circles in this con-
founded Centre! How soon do you
propose this little week-end trip to the
Moon?

Really?... You too?... Do you?

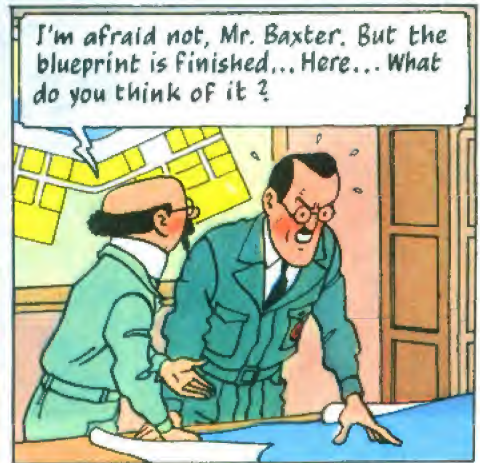


That's very odd. I have the
same thing myself. But mine's
in the right shoulder... A touch of
rheumatism, I expect... It has
been damp these last few days.
But it will go. Excuse me: Mr.
Baxter is waiting...

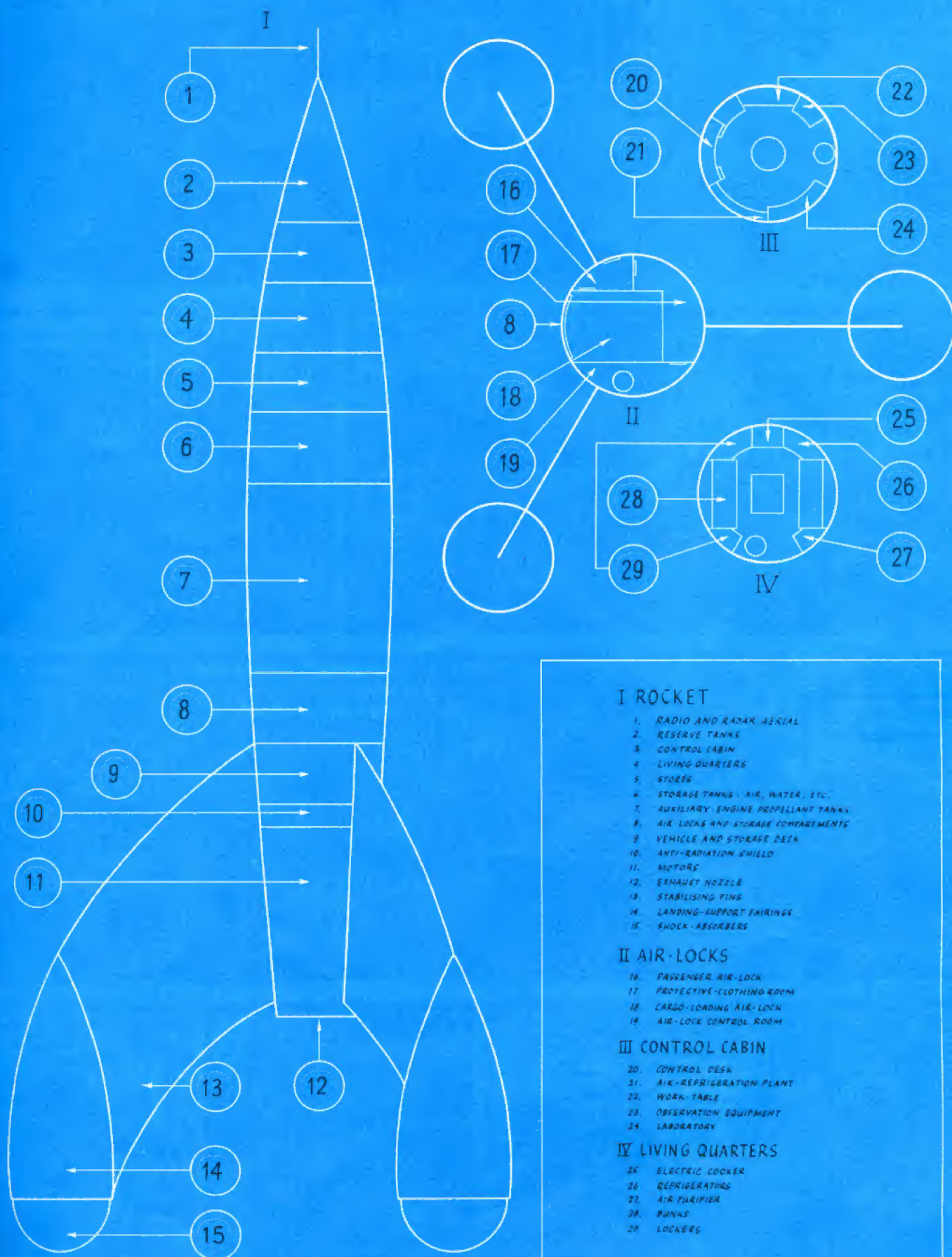


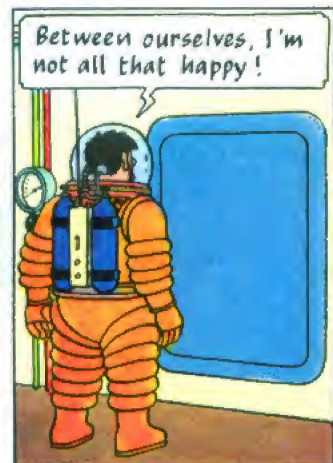
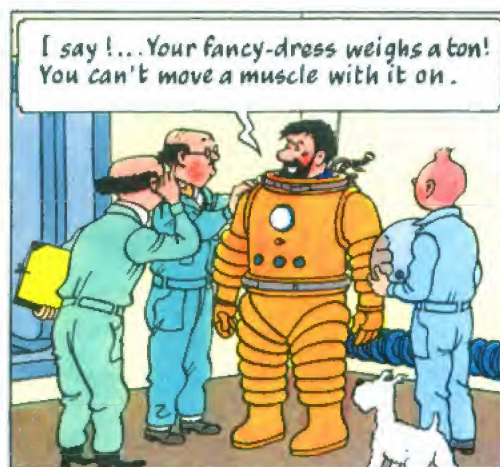
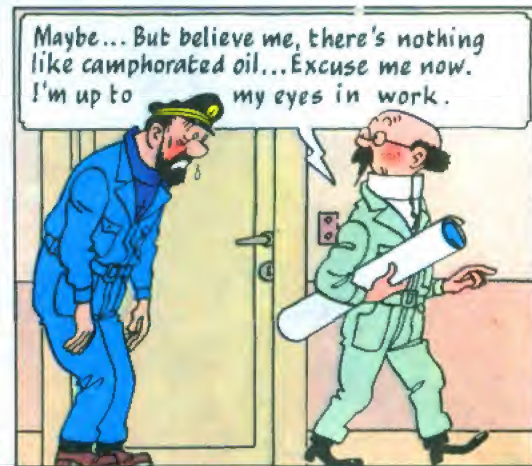
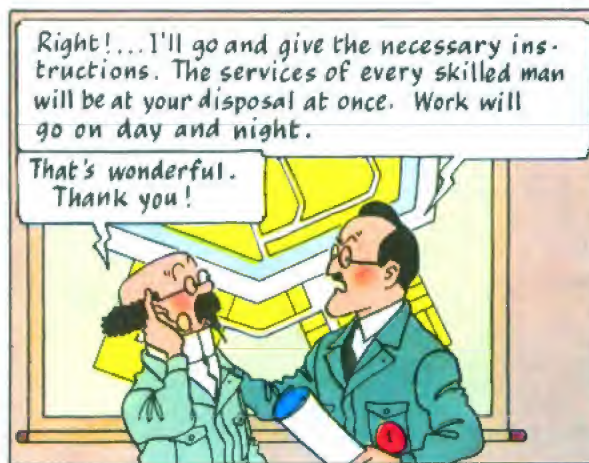
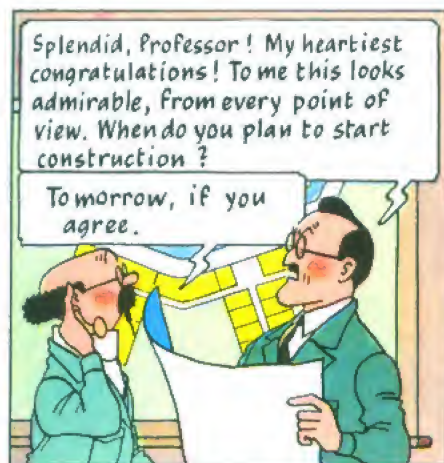
Good morning, Mr. Baxter.

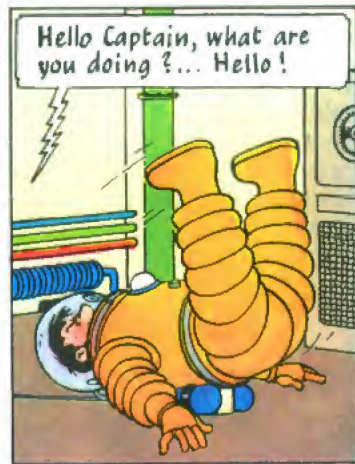
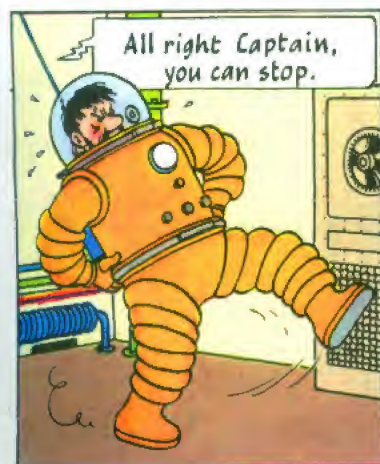
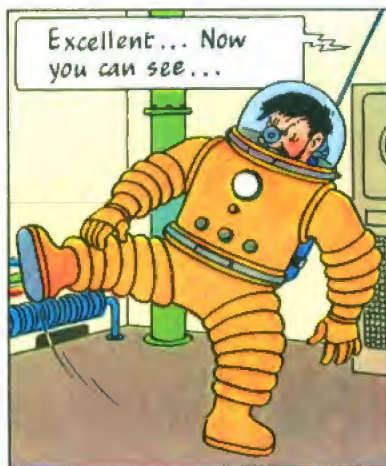
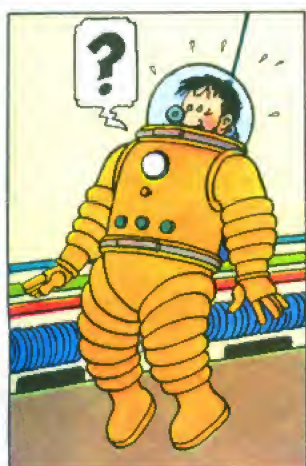
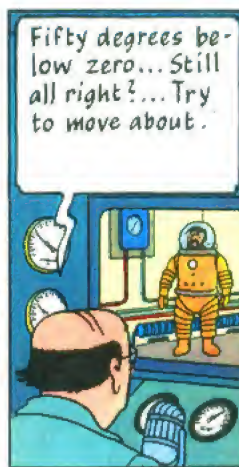
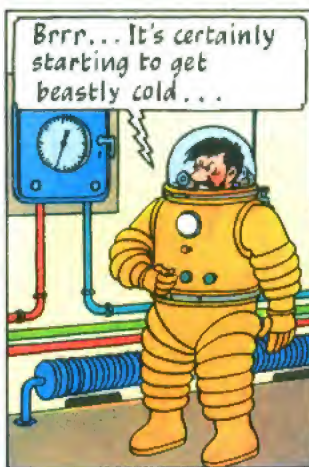
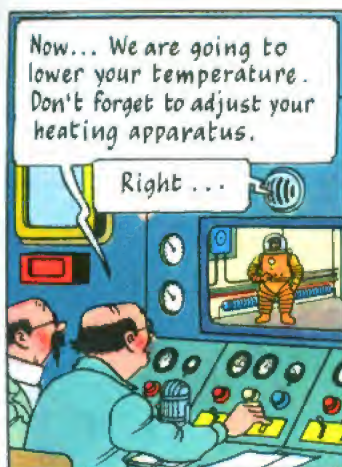
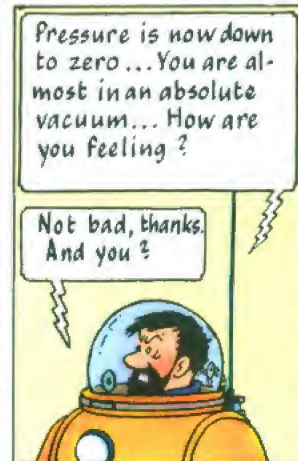
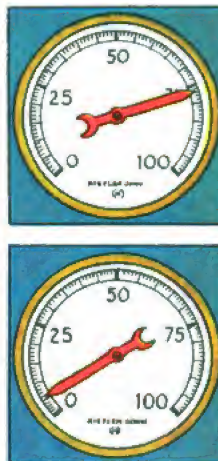
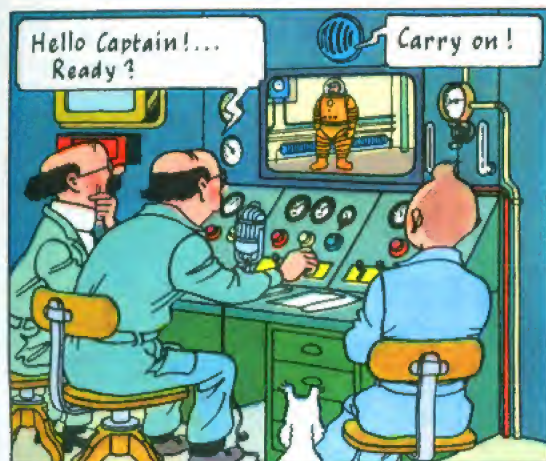
Good morning, Professor. You've
brought the blueprint of the
rocket?

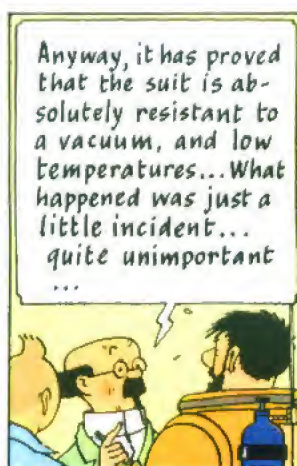
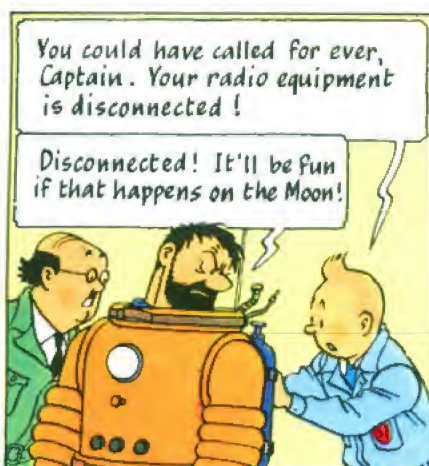
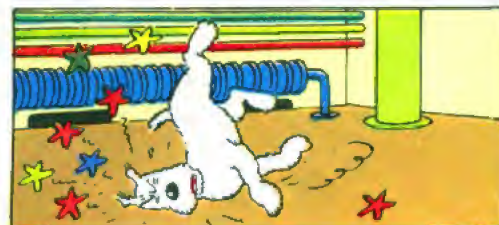
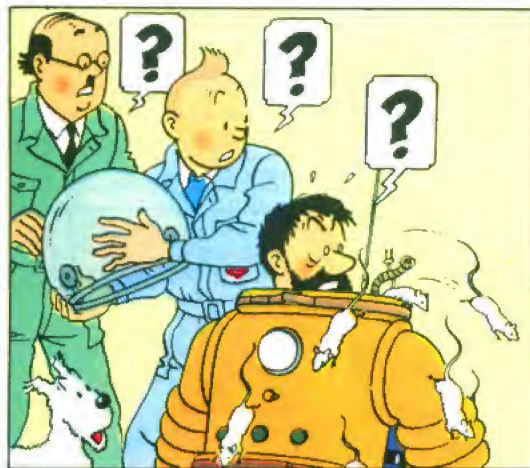
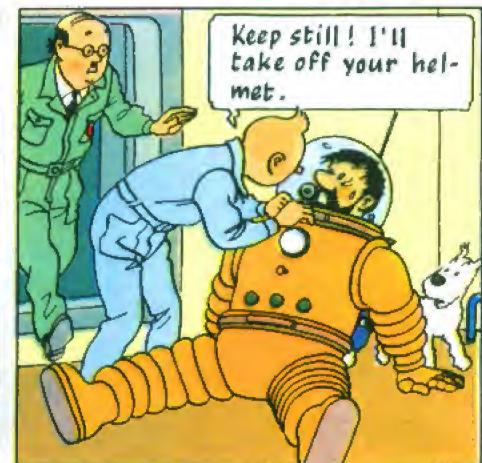
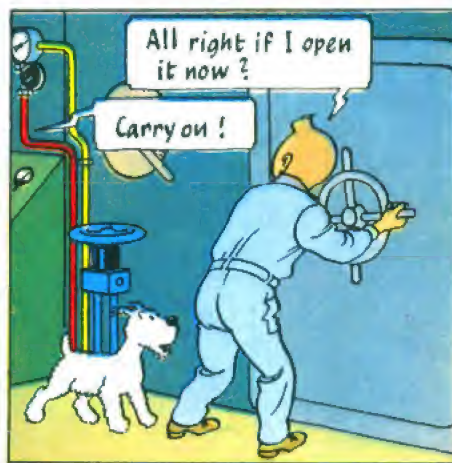


I'm afraid not, Mr. Baxter. But the
blueprint is finished... Here... What
do you think of it?









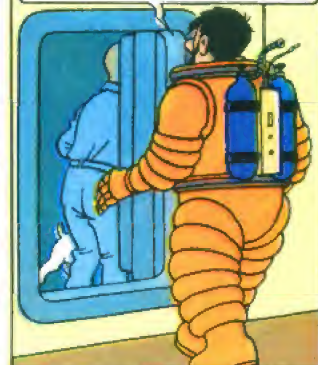
That's the Thomsons ! Hurry, we must see...



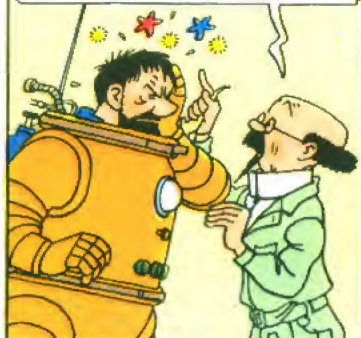
M-m-m... m-mice!... It's alive with mice in here!



Now what's happened to that pair of sea-gherkins?



My poor friend ! Didn't you notice the door was rather low ?



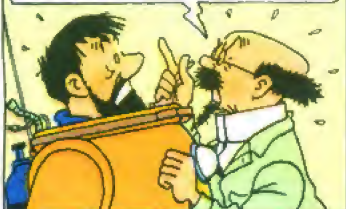
D'you think I did it on purpose?... I suppose you think my favourite pastime is cracking my head against doors ? Well, I've had enough ! I've had enough of being a playmate for neurotic mice !



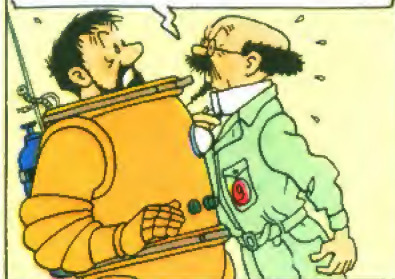
I've had enough, d'you understand?... You want to go to the Moon?... Well go ! But without me ! I'm going home to Marlinspike !... And you can go on acting the goat here for as long as you like!



Oh, I'm acting the goat ? ... I'm acting the goat, am I ?... I... This... this is too much ! I, acting the goat !... I demand an apology... An apology, you hear ? ... You have no right to say such a thing !... Acting the goat !

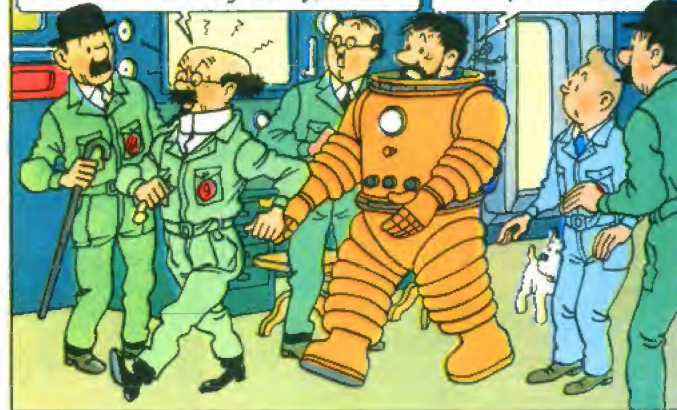


To dare say such a thing to me !... You !... You !... You Follow me... I'll show you just how I act the goat !... Come along !



Oho ! I'm acting the goat !

Look, I... I...

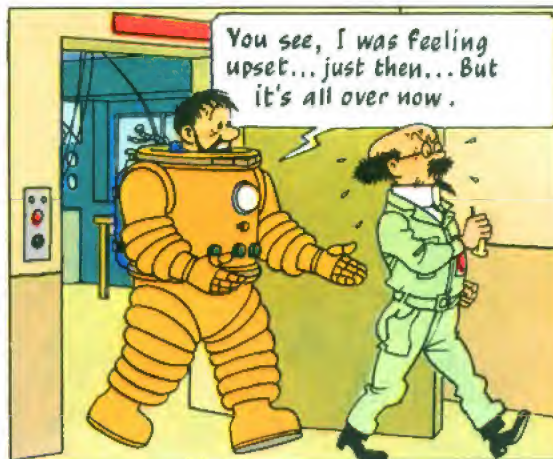


So, I act the goat ?

I didn't mean anything...



You see, I was feeling upset... just then... But it's all over now.



PIONNING



Billions of blue blistering barnacles! If ever I find the pirate who did that I'll make him dance, I promise you!

It was your aerial, Captain... You...

So you're trying to give me the slip? Well, you aren't going to! Come on! Hurry!

So I act the goat!

Slaving for two months non-stop, working myself to the bone, all to hear myself called a goat! ... It's too much!

Excuse me Professor, but your companion is not wearing regulation clothing... I'm afraid I must ask him to go back ...

That's true... He's right... I ought to...

Be gone, you worm! Out of my sight! I'm acting the goat, d'you hear?

Professor, I implore you...

I'm acting the goat, eh?

And I suppose these people are acting the goat, eh?

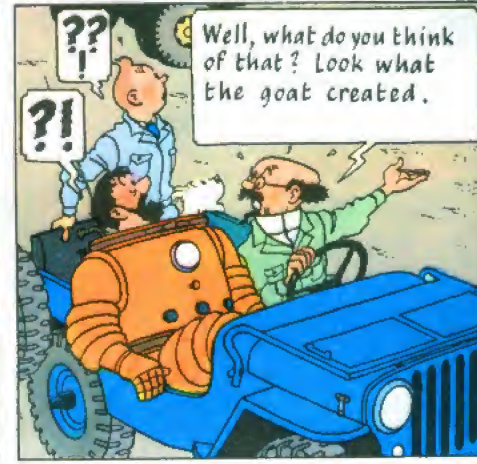
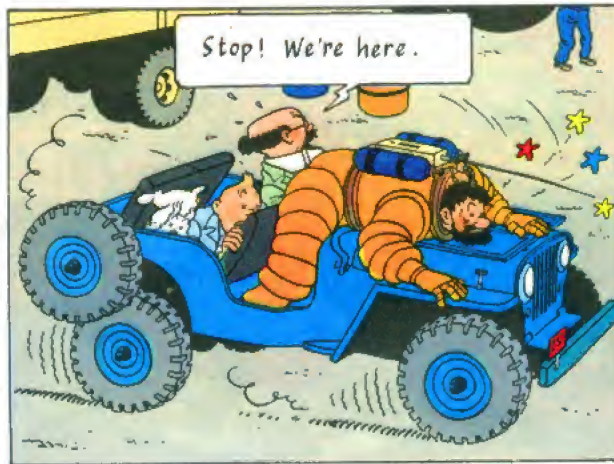
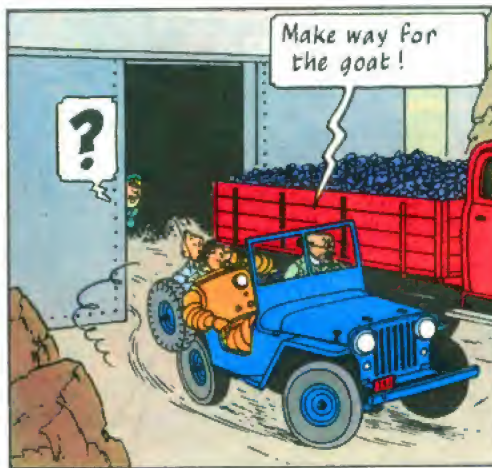
Yes, this is the Chief of Internal Security... What?... Professor Calculus?... Making a scene? Says he's acting the goat?... I'll teach him to act the goat ...

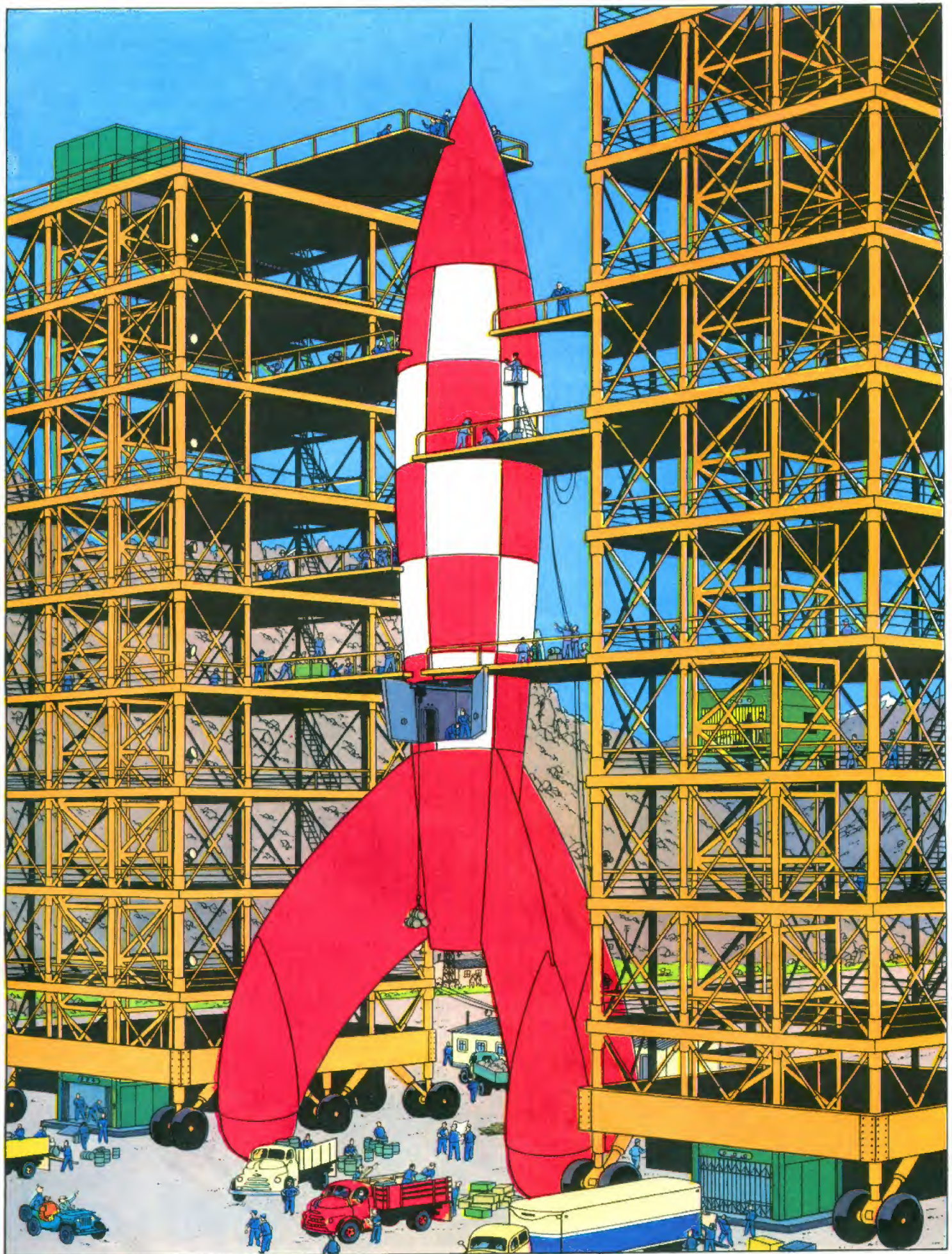
And the atomic pile, never stopping?... The uranium being made?... The laboratories working day and night?... That's all acting the goat too, I suppose?

Well, Professor, what's all this about? I hear someone's acting the goat.

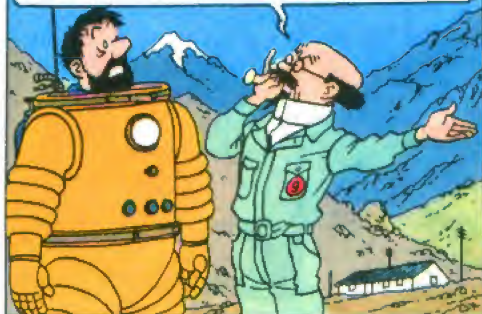
?! CRRR GRRR KRRRR

For heaven's sake, Cuthbert, calm yourself!





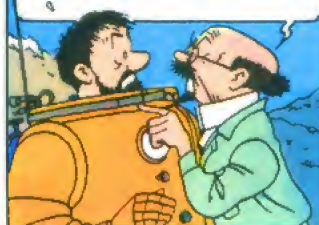
Well, what about it?... Look what I created - I, Cuthbert Calculus!... And that, I suppose, is what you call "acting the goat"?



You think this... this crackpot contraption will take you to the Moon? ...



This crackpot contraption, as you call it, is taking you to the Moon, as well ... Understand? Meanwhile, you're going to look over it ... And put your aerial down!



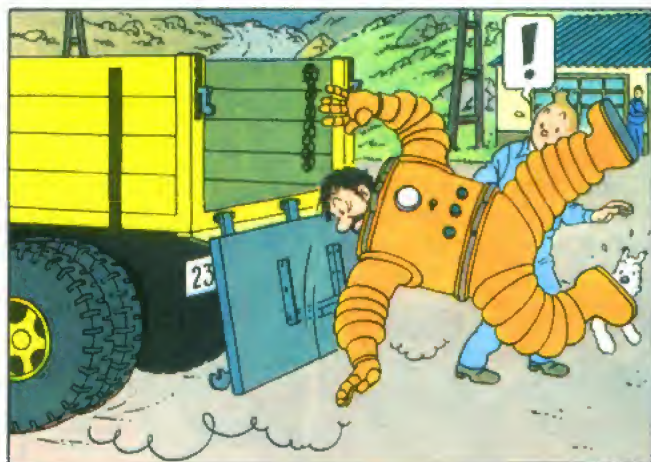
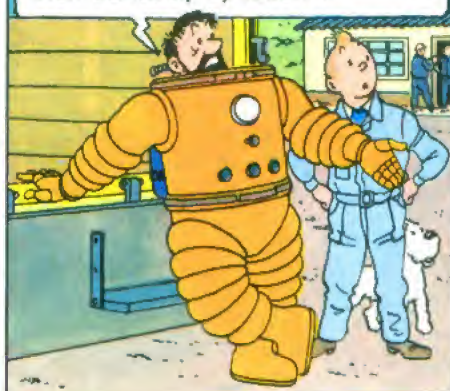
LIFT!...



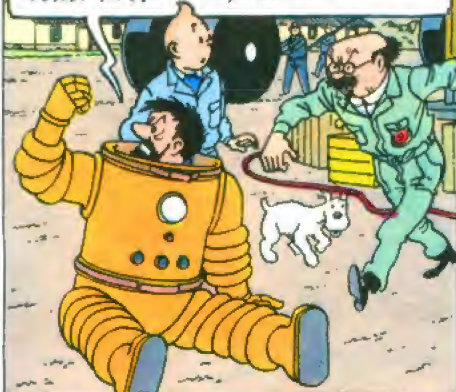
Poor Calculus, he must have a screw loose... How do you suppose that monument could go up in the air?... You might just as well play a penny whistle in front of Nelson's Column and expect it to dance a samba!



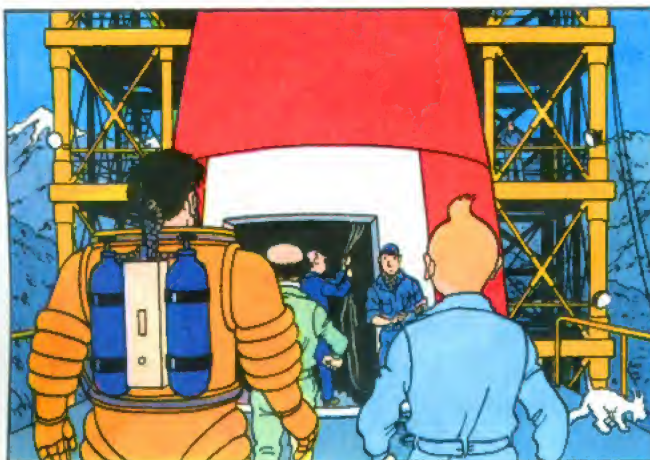
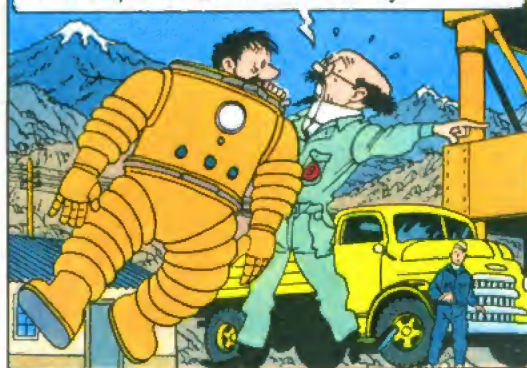
Not a hope, you know! It wouldn't even stand up by itself!



You road-hog!... Bully!... Steam-roller!... Cyclotron!



Aren't you ashamed of yourself? Making a scene in front of everybody?... Stand up!... The lift is waiting!



In you go!... Hurry up!

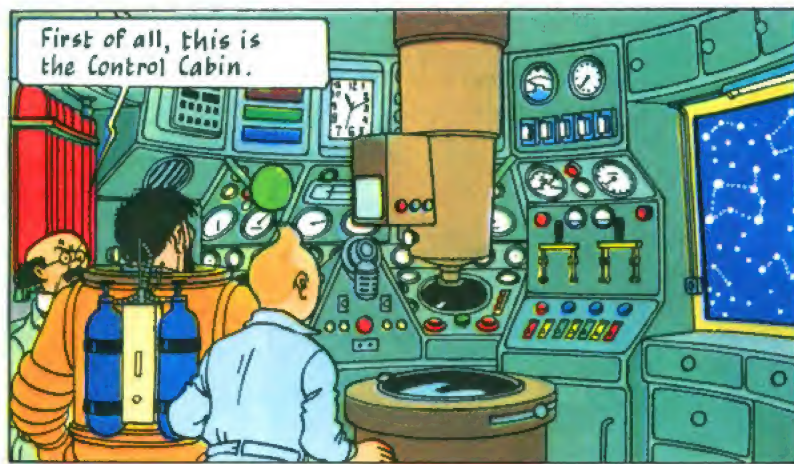
You... you're sure it won't take off without warning?



Meanwhile...

Hello... Hello... yes... I've just had a message from our new agent... The launching takes place in a month: June the 3rd., at 1:34 a.m.... Yes, that's it. Send Colonel Jorgen to me.



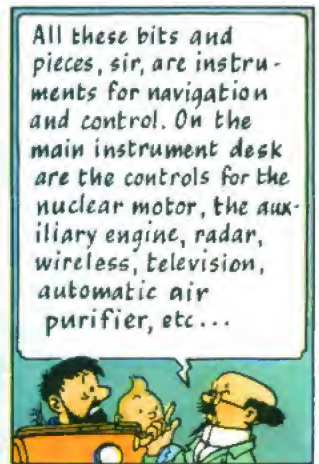


First of all, this is the Control Cabin.



Well, what do you think of it?... You can't call this acting the goat, eh?

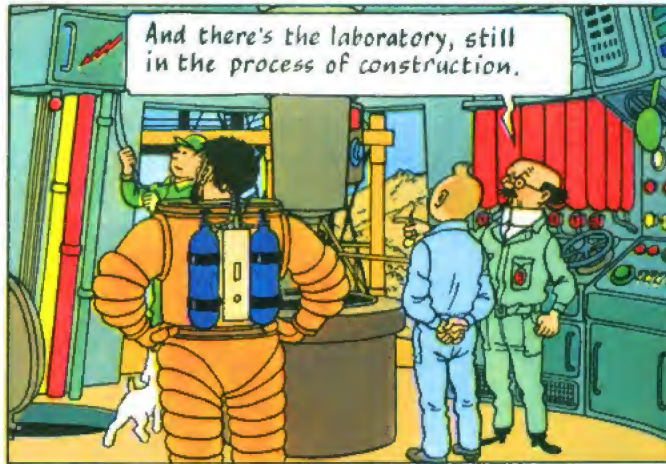
Fantastic!... Er... what are all these bits and pieces for?



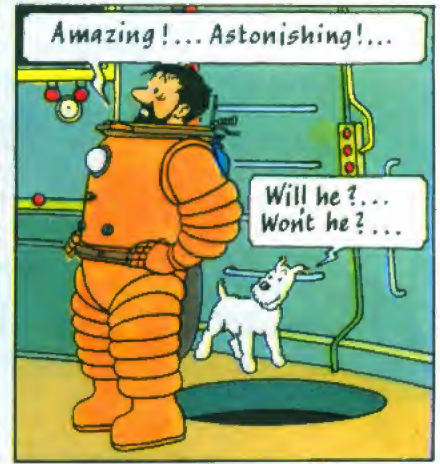
All these bits and pieces, sir, are instruments for navigation and control. On the main instrument desk are the controls for the nuclear motor, the auxiliary engine, radar, wireless, television, automatic air purifier, etc...



To the left of the desk are the oxygen cylinders... That's the periscope, in the middle of the cabin, with its projection screen... But believe me, you'll have plenty of time to get to know all this equipment.

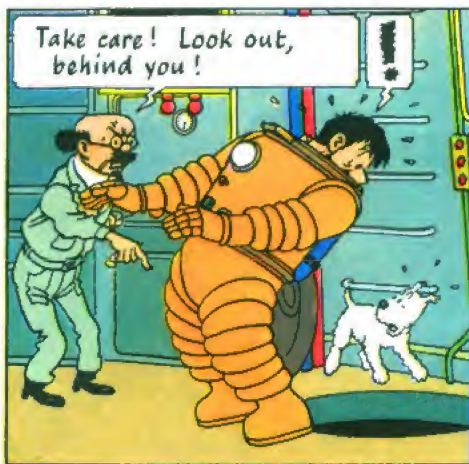


And there's the laboratory, still in the process of construction.



Amazing!... Astonishing!...

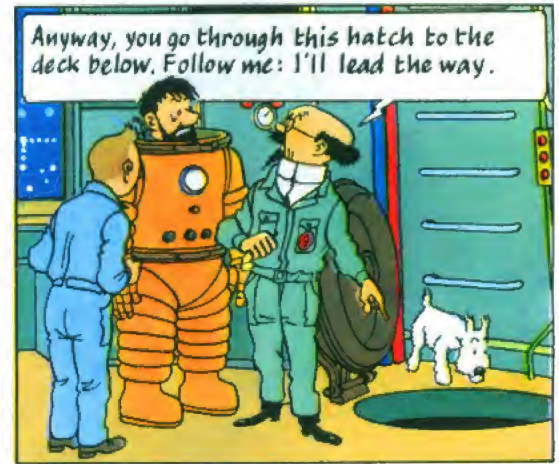
Will he?... Won't he?...



Take care! Look out, behind you!



I believe you do it on purpose, don't you?... Every time there's a chance to bump yourself, or sprawl on the floor, you take it!... Can't you pay attention?



Anyway, you go through this hatch to the deck below. Follow me: I'll lead the way.



And mind out! There's another hatchway to the left of the ladder...

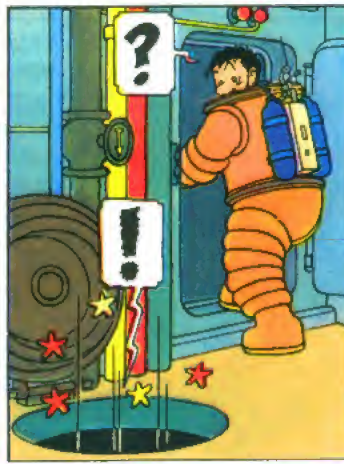
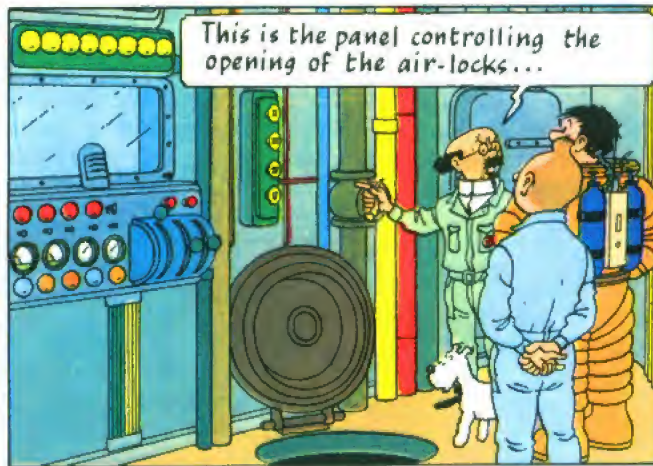
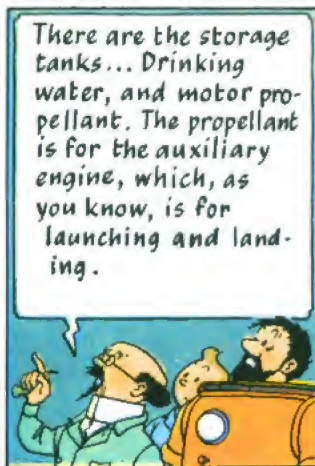
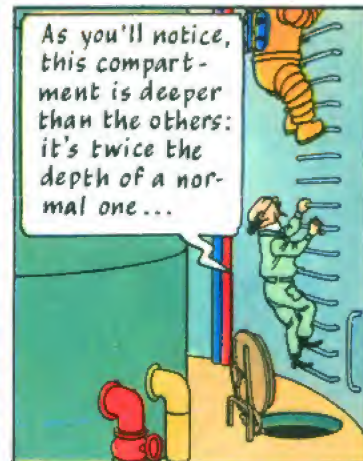
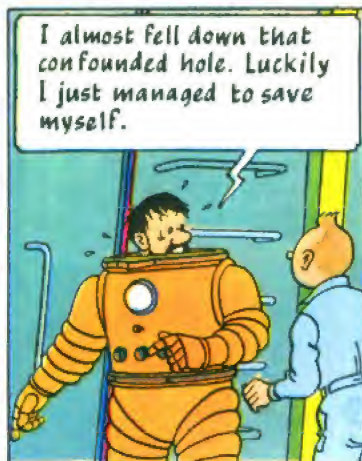


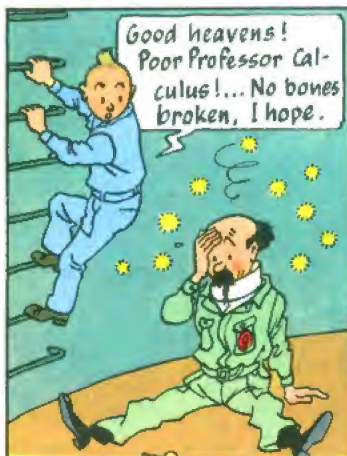
We are now in the living quarters. This will be our bedroom, kitchen, and dining room, all in one.



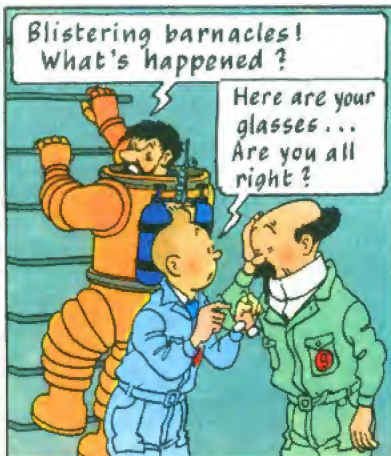
And there are the bunks we lie on when...

Blistering barnacles!





Good heavens!
Poor Professor Calculus!... No bones broken, I hope.



Blistering barnacles!
What's happened?

Here are your glasses...
Are you all right?



Before you start preaching at others to be careful, you'd do better to watch your own feet, sea-gherkin! You're lucky to be still in one piece!



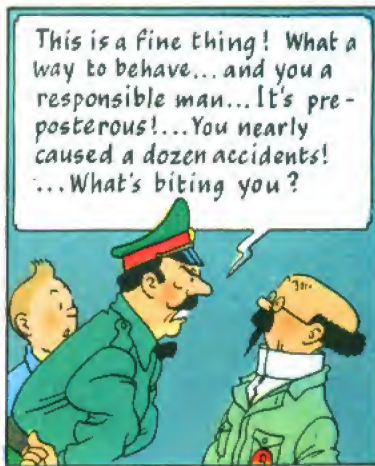
Who... who are you? And what's that fancy dress?



Fancy dress?... Look here, don't begin acting the... er... I mean, don't try pulling my leg! We've had enough of that!



Ah, I've found you at last, Professor.



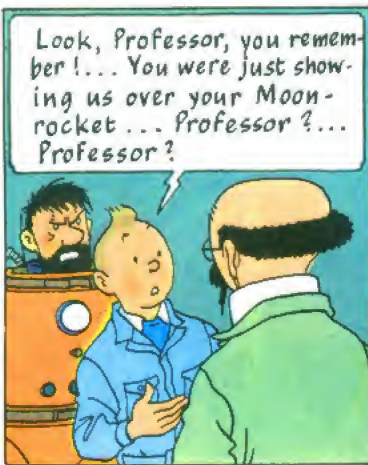
This is a fine thing! What a way to behave... and you a responsible man... It's preposterous!... You nearly caused a dozen accidents! ...What's biting you?



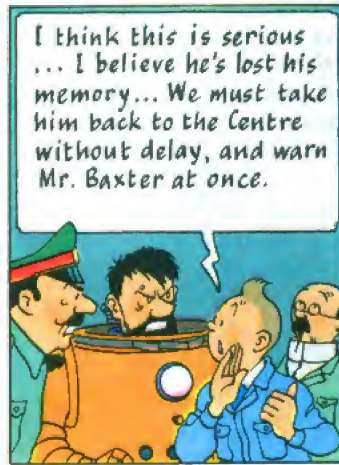
I... er... I don't understand... What... what do you want? ... Where am I?



Where are you?... Billions of blue blistering barnacles, you know as well as we do where you are, you anacoluthon!



Look, Professor, you remember!... You were just showing us over your Moon-rocket... Professor?... Professor?

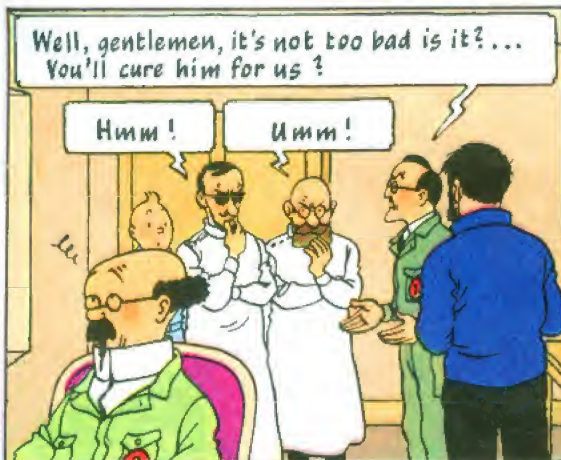


I think this is serious... I believe he's lost his memory... We must take him back to the Centre without delay, and warn Mr. Baxter at once.



Calculus?... Amnesia?

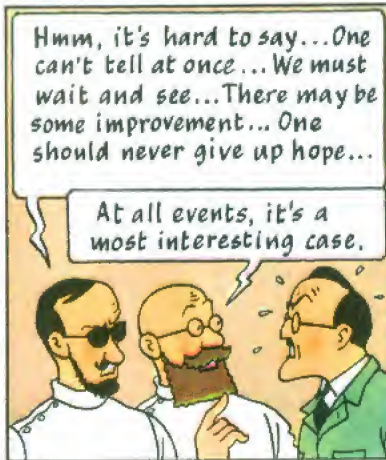
I'm afraid so... The doctors are examining him now.



Well, gentlemen, it's not too bad is it?... You'll cure him for us?

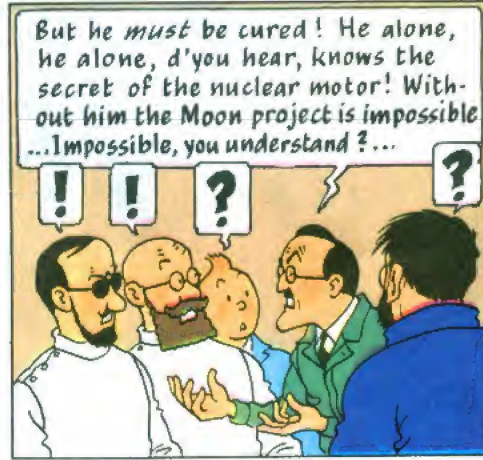
Hmm!

Umm!

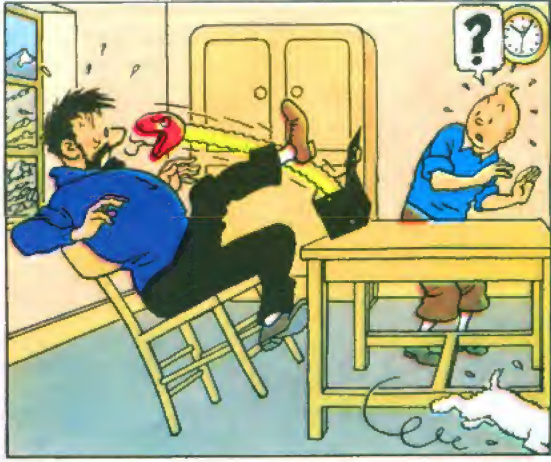
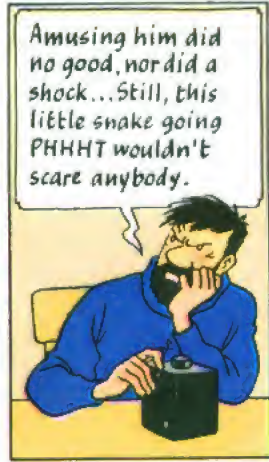
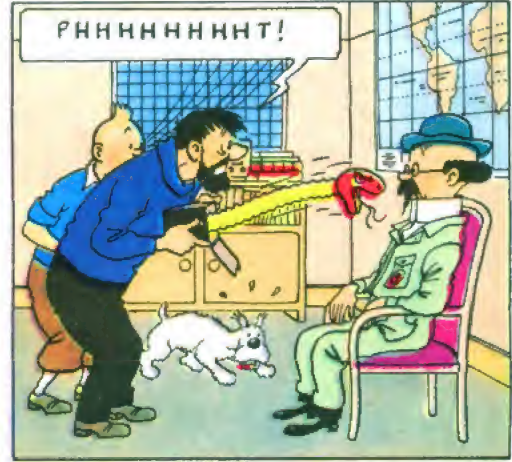
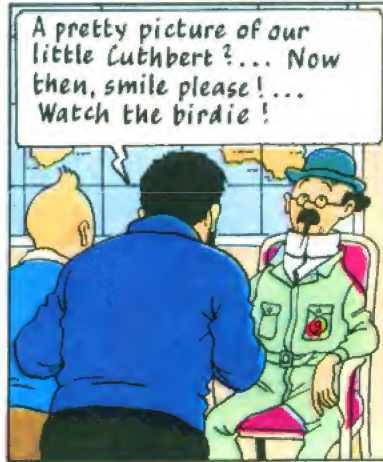
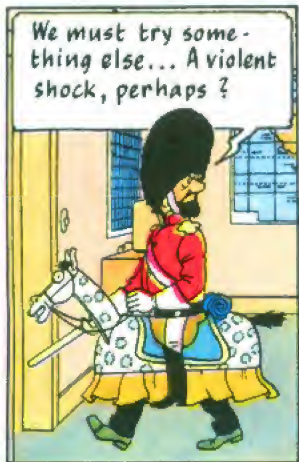
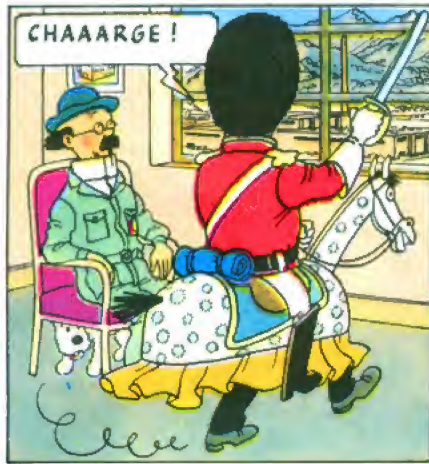
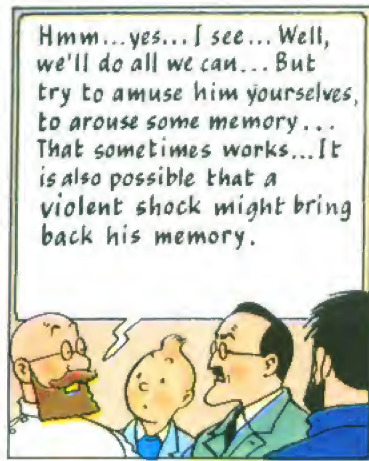


Hmm, it's hard to say... One can't tell at once... We must wait and see... There may be some improvement... One should never give up hope...

At all events, it's a most interesting case.



But he must be cured! He alone, he alone, d'you hear, knows the secret of the nuclear motor! Without him the Moon project is impossible... Impossible, you understand?... ?





The same evening...

So he needs a shock, eh?... Well this time he'll get one, blistering barnacles!



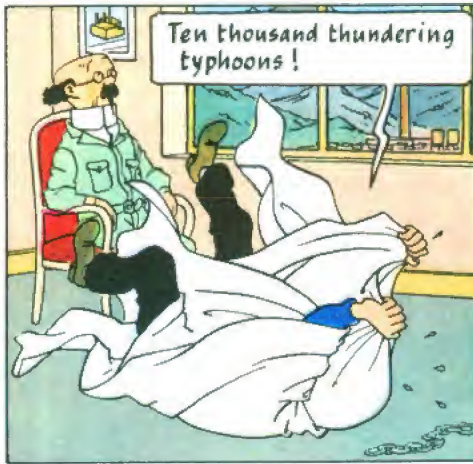
Whoooo!... Whoooo!... Beware, Cutbert, I am a gho-o-ost!



Ho-ho-ho! Shake in your sho-o-oes! I have come for your soul!



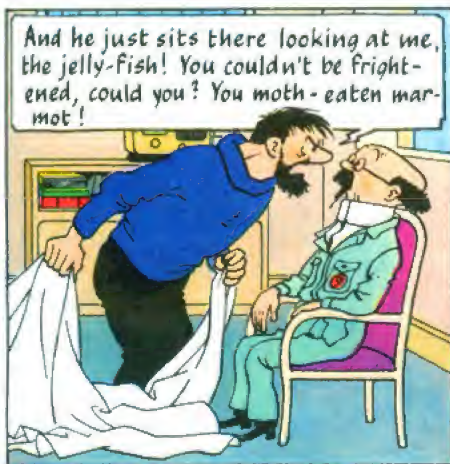
Ten thousand thundering typhoons!



Blistering barnacles!... What possessed me to dress myself up as a ghost?



And he just sits there looking at me, the jelly-fish! You couldn't be frightened, could you? You moth-eaten marmot!



I suppose you think I'm enjoying myself, acting the goat!



You won't catch me trying to cure loss of memory again!



A GOAT?... ME!...

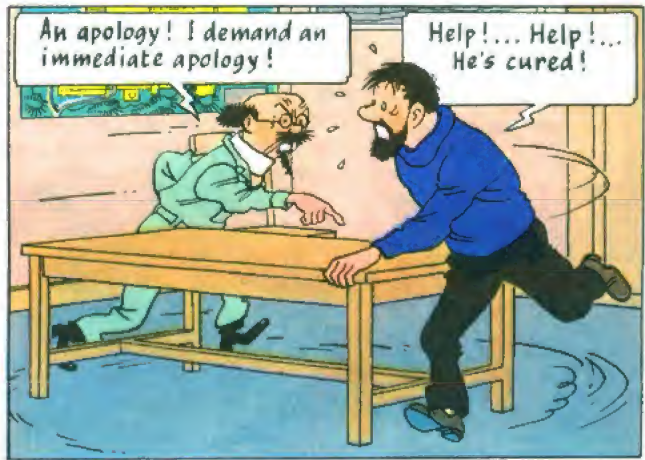


A goat!... A goat!... You dare call me a goat! ...This is too much! You're not getting away with that!



An apology! I demand an immediate apology!

Help!... Help!... He's cured!



A few minutes later ...

Oh, Captain, Captain, what a debt we all owe you!... Thanks to you Calculus has recovered!... This is splendid news!

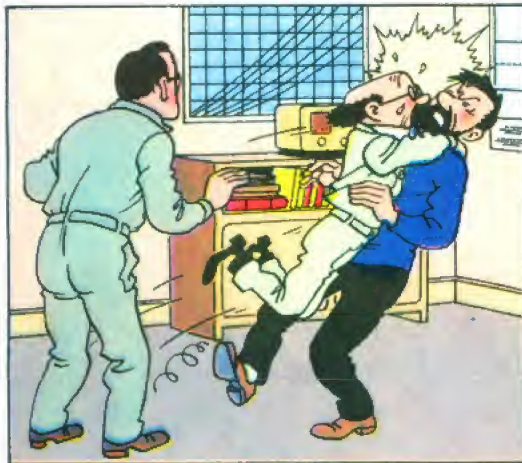
Er... I didn't do much.

Not much?... My dear Captain, without your help, the journey to the Moon would have been impossible... Don't you realise?

Thundering typhoons! I'd forgotten that!

And here is the Professor to thank you himself.

Oh, Captain!... Give me your hand!



They've told me everything: about my loss of memory, and your devoted care... I thank you, Captain, from the bottom of my heart!

I'm... I'm very touched.

I thank you too in the name of Science! You have made possible the journey to the Moon... I shall never forget that!

And neither shall I!

The same evening...

Here's a signal from K.23, sir!

Oh, news from the Main Workshop? Let's hope it is better than last time.

"M.23.301... Mammoth has recovered memory, thanks to Whale." Good old Whale! Without knowing it, he's done us a really good turn... Reply: "M.23.301 received. Operation Ulysses will proceed according to plan."

The days go by...



... And in one week's time, gentlemen, on the night of the 2nd and 3rd at 1.34 a.m., the launching will take place... Is everything up to schedule?



You, Wolff, are in charge of provisioning and equipment. How are you getting along?

The loading is going ahead. Food supplies, and all the components for our reconnaissance tank are already stowed aboard. I'm just waiting for some optical instruments we need to establish an observatory on the Moon.

Unfortunately the factory at Oberkochen tells me there's been a delay in production. But they've definitely promised delivery of the consignment on the eve of our departure... In that case I...

Excuse me one moment.

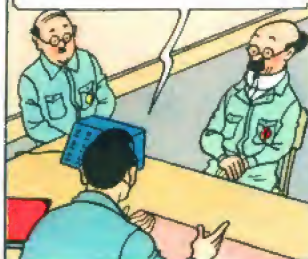
Hello... Yes... What? Inside the Security Area? ... Three?... You're questioning them?... All right. Keep me informed.



You heard that, gentlemen? The ZEPO have just arrested three people wandering inside the Security Area. Of course they said they wanted to climb Mount Zstopphole, and had lost their way... Whenever they arrest anybody it's the same story...



You see, despite all the precautions we take, a determined man can always find a way through the defences.



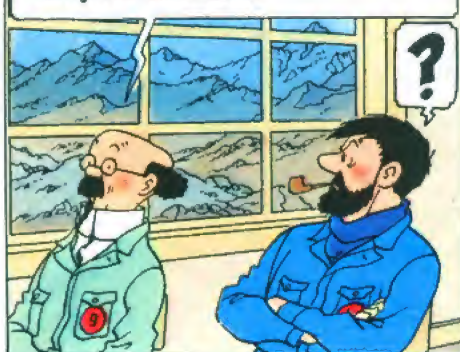
But where were we?... Oh yes... So on your side, Wolff, everything is in order, except for the delay with the optical instruments... What about you Captain? Air supply, temperature, safety equipment...



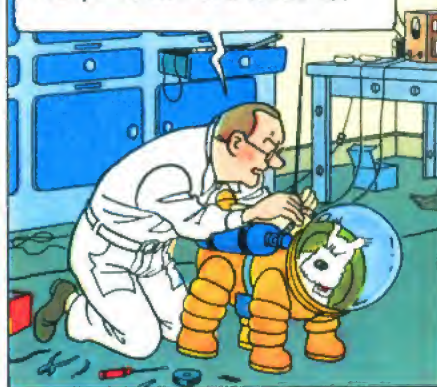
And you, Professor?



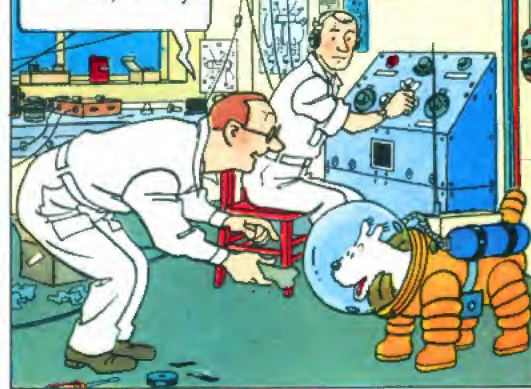
Everything is ready, Mr. Baxter, except for Snowy's space-suit. That is just being finished now.



There we are... Nothing more except to test the radio...



Who's this nice bone for, Snowy?

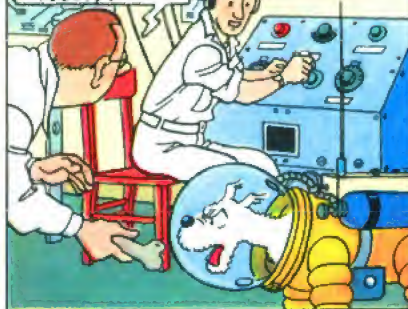


Golly, what a bone!

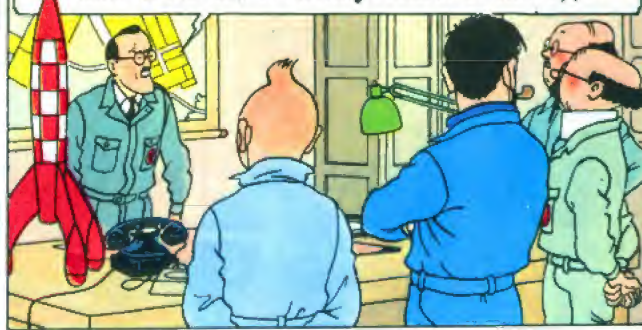


Woah!... Woah!

Fine!... It's working perfectly!



Now, gentlemen, it only remains for me to thank you, and congratulate you. For you have managed to surmount all the obstacles that seemed to stand in the way of making rockets of this type.



Are you coming, Captain?... We'll go and find Snowy in the laboratory...

Coming... Coming...



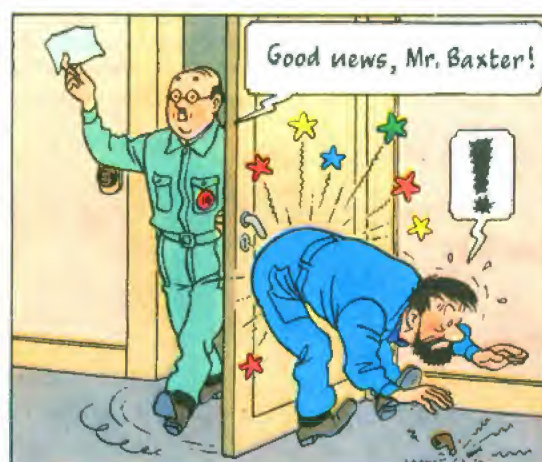
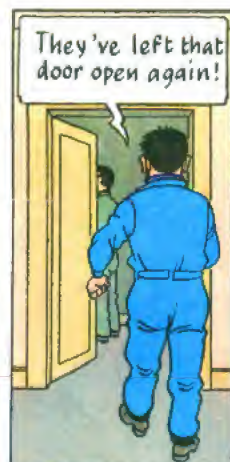
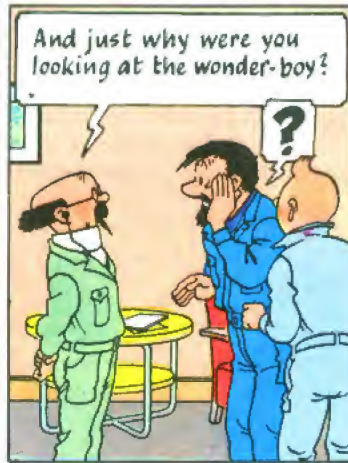
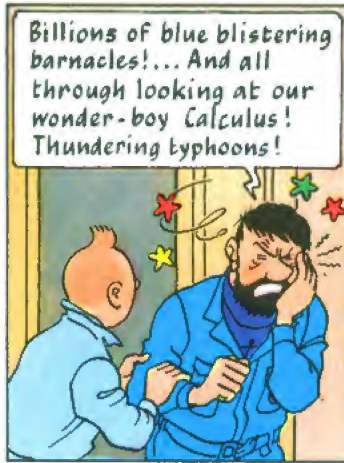
I say... Look at Calculus... Doesn't anything strike you?

No... Not at first glance.

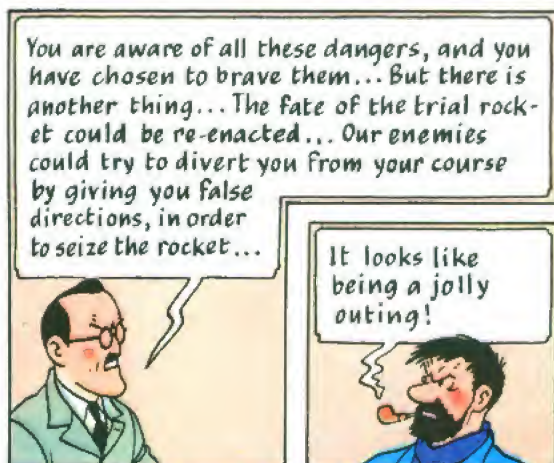
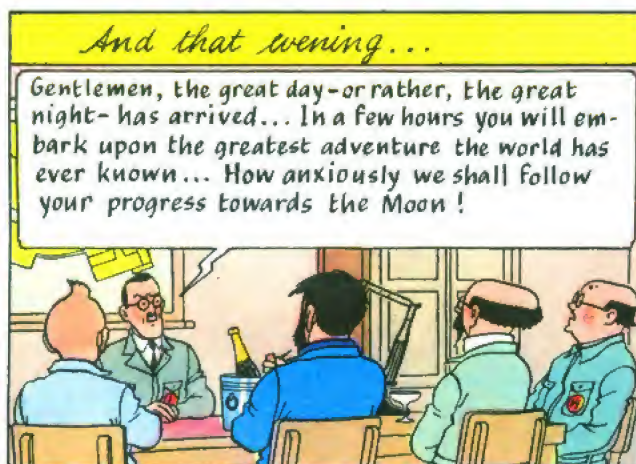
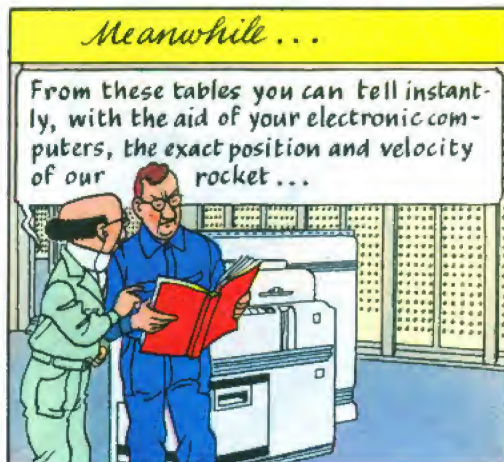
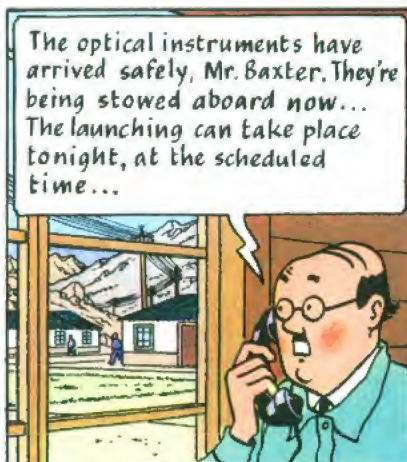


It does me!... But then I don't walk about with my eyes shut!











Blow yourselves up? I trust you will not be driven to that extremity! If anything has to go with a bang, let's make it the cork from this bottle! Will you, Captain?



With pleasure, Mr. Baxter... I'm an old hand...



Thundering typhoons! Why does this cork have to be so stubborn?



Would you like me to try, Captain?



Are you proposing to teach me how to open a bottle of champagne?

But...



The cork! He's swallowed the cork!



Here, Captain... Sit down... Yes, like that... Now, I'll give you a thump on the back.



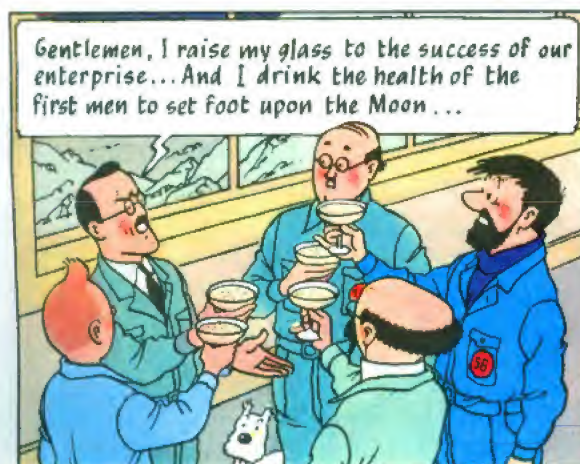
That's better, thanks! But I can't imagine how it happened. It's the first time...



That's got a kick in it!... Champagne doesn't agree with me... It's making my head spin!



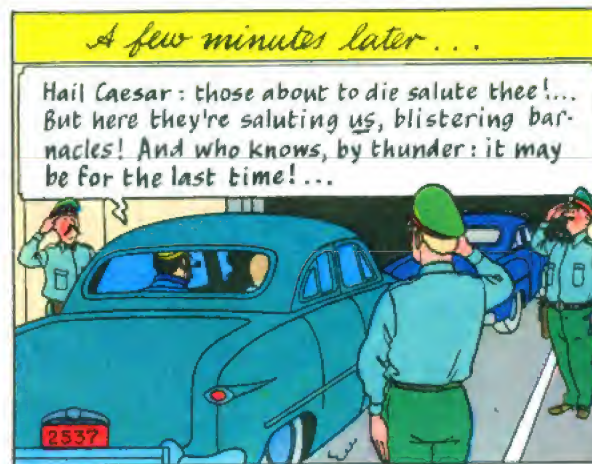
Come, gentlemen. The incident is closed... Here, Captain...



Gentlemen, I raise my glass to the success of our enterprise... And I drink the health of the first men to set foot upon the Moon...

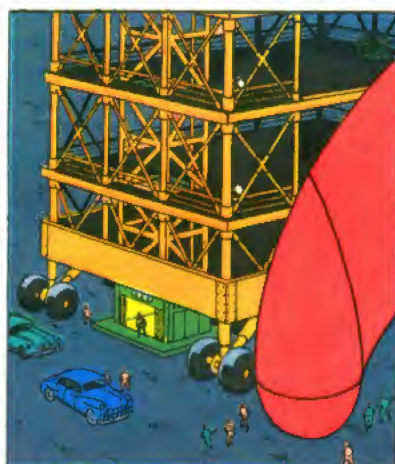
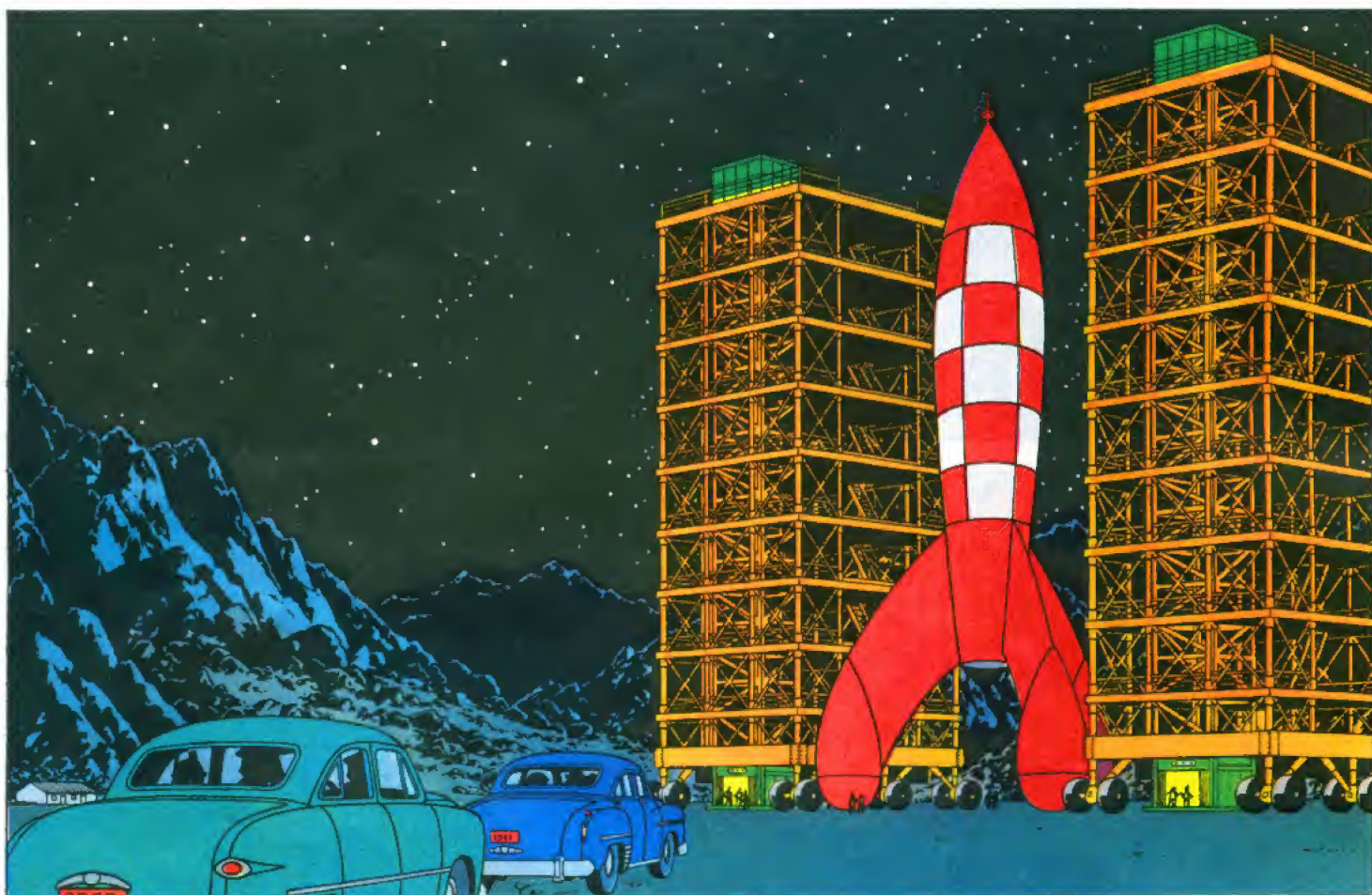
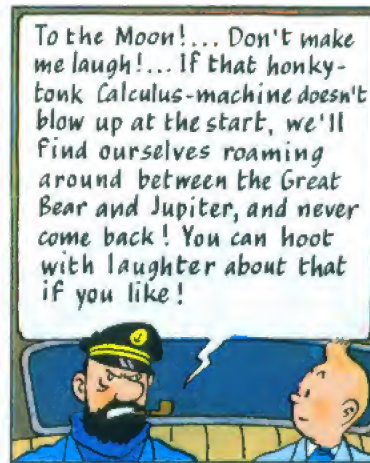


And now the hour of departure approaches... The cars are waiting to take us to the launching site... Come, gentlemen!



A few minutes later...

Hail Caesar: those about to die salute thee!... But here they're saluting us, blistering barnacles! And who knows, by thunder: it may be for the last time!...



Gentlemen, the time has come for us to part. As soon as you are inside the rocket, I shall go to one of the shelters to watch the launching. Afterwards, I shall return to the Centre, and resume contact with you by radio.



Goodbye, Captain. I am delighted that a sailor should be one of the first men to set foot on the Moon!

It would have been all the same to me if a piccolo-player had gone!



Goodbye, my young friend. My good wishes go with you! I'm sorry not to be among you...



Look, Mr. Baxter, if you really mean it, I'd be happy to give up my place...

Thank you, Captain, that is most kind. But I would not ask you to make such a sacrifice!



Goodbye, Wolff, and good luck. You know my regard for you... I look to you to stand by the Professor.

Thank you, Mr. Baxter. I shall not fail you.



As for you, my dear Professor-your skill is our best guarantee of success!

Thank you, Mr. Baxter. I can only say this: we will get to the Moon or perish!



Come along. The lift is waiting for us.



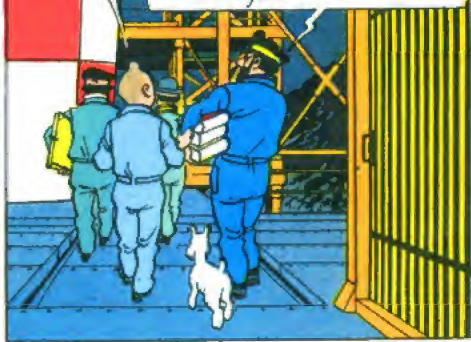
Goodness, Captain! You're going to do some reading...

Yes, I want to improve myself...



Would you like some help?

No, thanks. I can manage.



In you go, gentlemen!

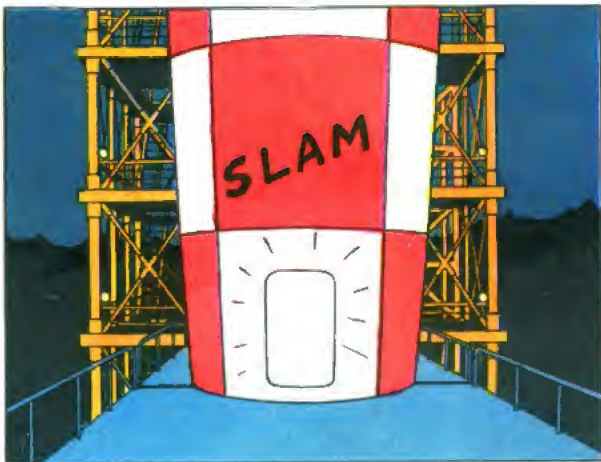
Between ourselves, Snowy my boy, I'm in a blue funk!



Farewell, Earth!



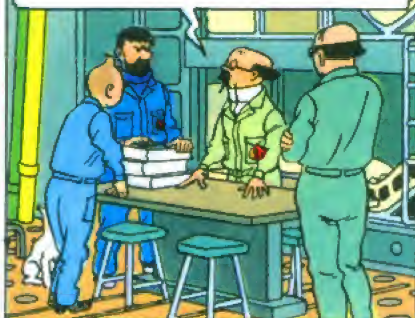
SLAM



The die is cast!... There they are, inside what could well become their tomb!



Now, I think we'd better run over it again. We all lie down on our bunks. I would remind you...



... that this is the best position during the initial acceleration. Although everything has been done to make this acceleration gradual, it is possible-even probable-that we shall black out. I assure you there's no need to be unduly worried. Naturally one can never tell, but ...



During this first phase of the ascent- I don't know how long it will last-the rocket will be automatically controlled. Afterwards, when we have regained consciousness, we will go up to the control deck and take over for ourselves.



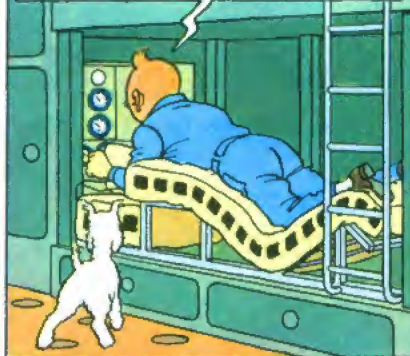
Now, every man to his post for equipment checks.



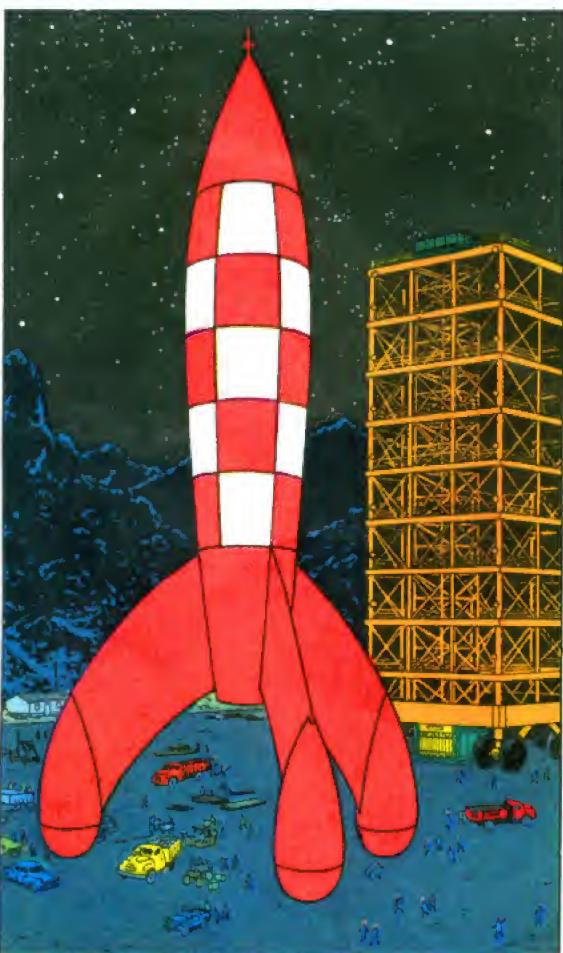
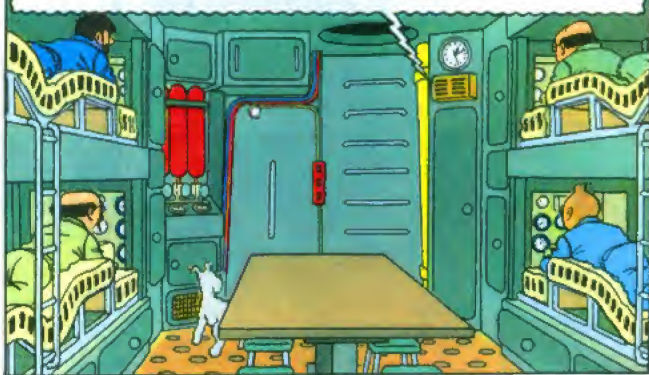
Tintin, you establish radio contact with Earth.



Moon-Rocket calling Earth ...
Moon-Rocket calling Earth ...
Are you receiving me ?



Earth calling Moon-Rocket ... Receiving you loud and clear... We are removing the gantries...



Earth to Moon-Rocket ...
Gantries removed... We
are clearing the launching
site ...



O. K.

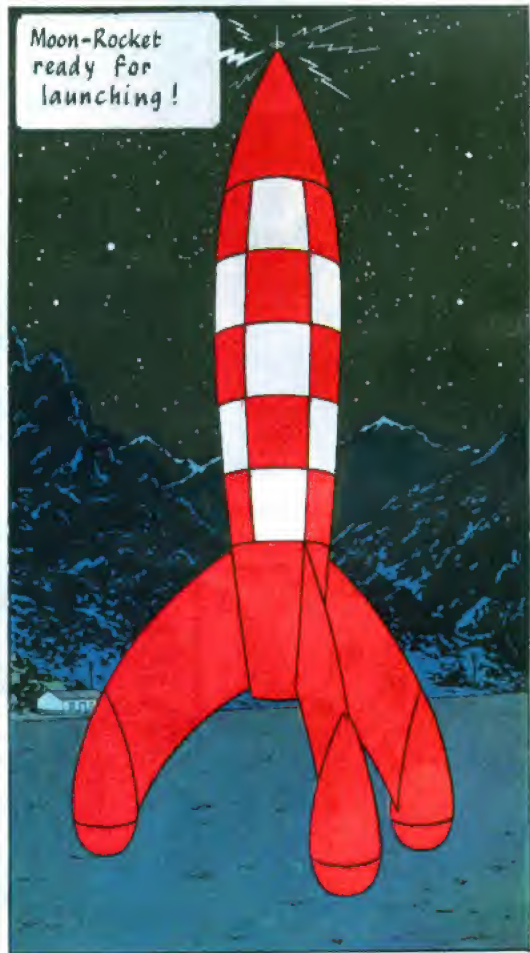
Attention please: clear the
launching site!... I repeat:
clear the launching site!



Earth to Moon-Rocket ...
The site is clear... Twenty-
eight minutes to go... Are
you ready?...

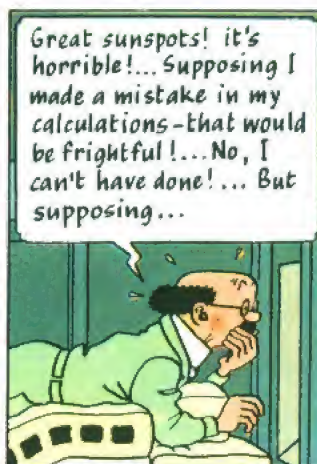


Moon-Rocket
ready for
launching !





Earth to Moon-Rocket... You have twelve minutes to go...



Great sunspots! It's horrible!... Supposing I made a mistake in my calculations—that would be frightful!... No, I can't have done!... But supposing...



Ten minutes to go...



Five minutes to go...

Well Tintin old man, you've lived through plenty of adventures... But I wonder if this isn't going to be your last!



Four minutes to go...

Snowy!... Snowy!... Come and lie down, quickly!

Lie down?... Why?... I'm not tired.



Three minutes to go...

What am I doing in this outfit?... And to think I gave that sea-gherkin Calculus his memory back!



Two minutes to go...

What have I done? What have I done?... How could I have let myself get entangled in this dreadful business?

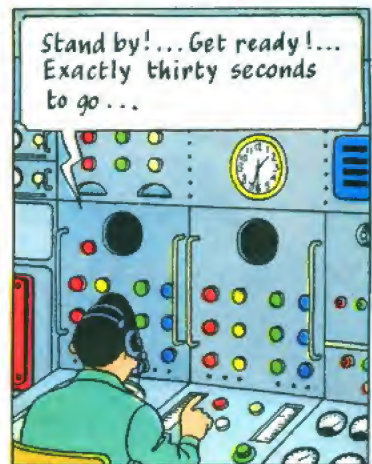


One minute to go...

One minute? Till when?



Will the rocket take off as planned when I press this button, or will everything blow up?



Stand by!... Get ready!... Exactly thirty seconds to go...



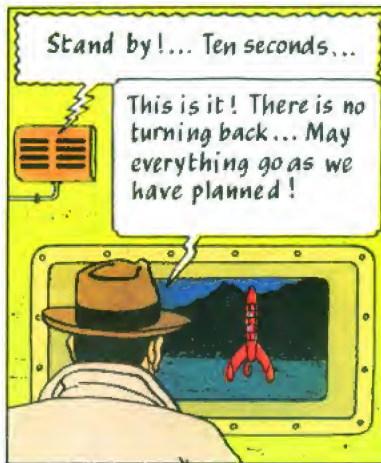
Twenty seconds...

What is that dull steady thumping noise?

THUMP THUMP THUMP

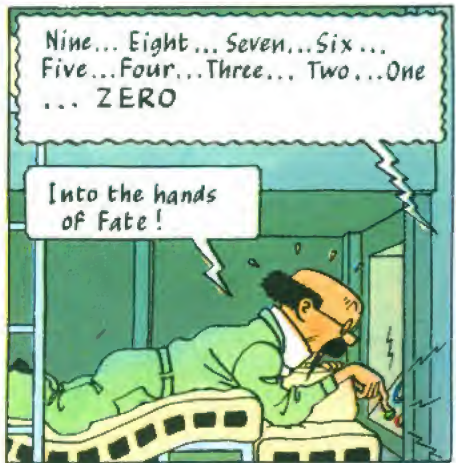


It's just the sound of my own heart beating!



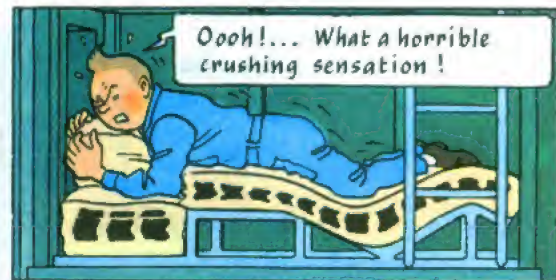
Stand by!... Ten seconds...

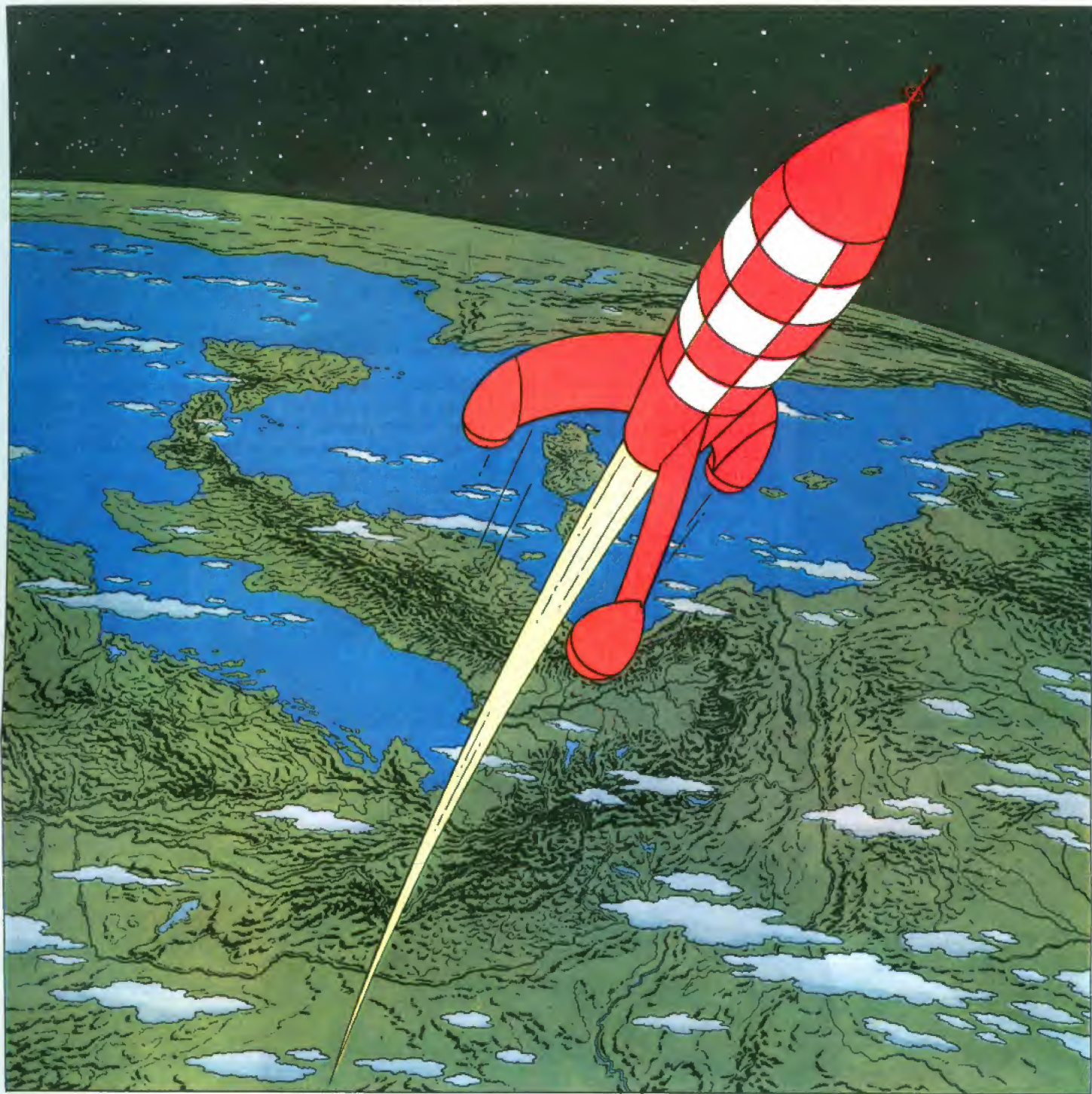
This is it! There is no turning back... May everything go as we have planned!

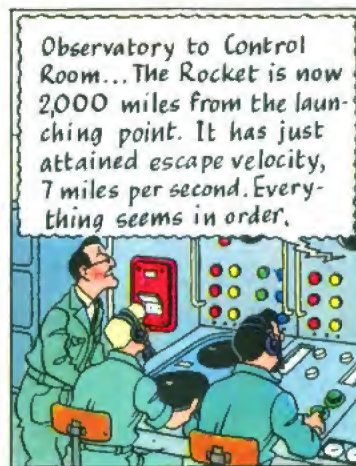


Nine... Eight... Seven... Six... Five... Four... Three... Two... One... ZERO

Into the hands of Fate!







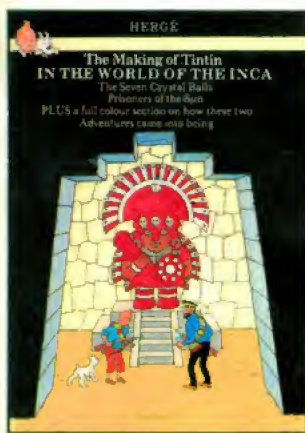
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What will happen on this perilous journey into space?

Will they ever return to Earth? You can join in the rest of their great adventure when you read

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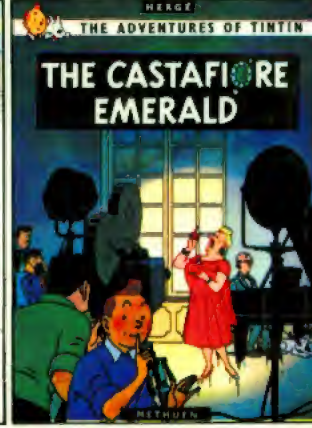
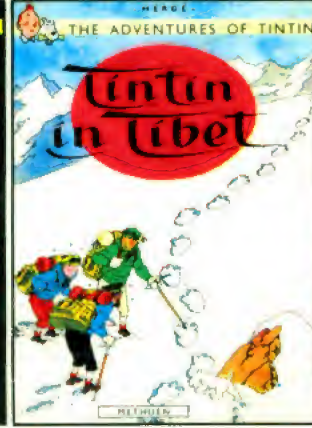
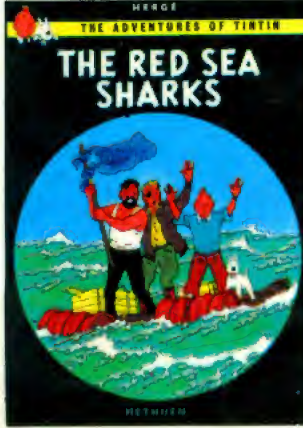
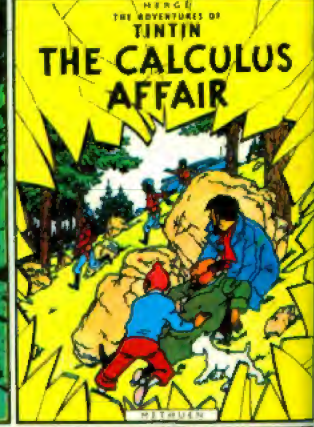
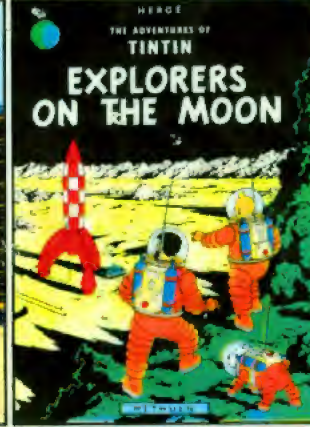
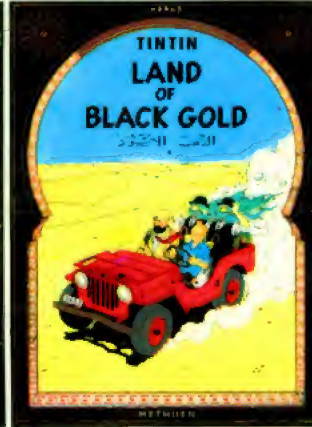
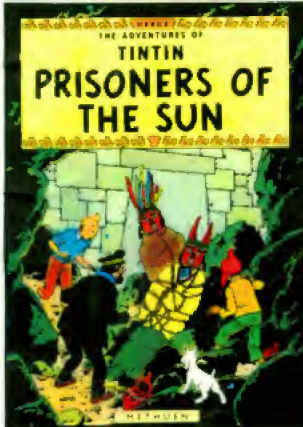
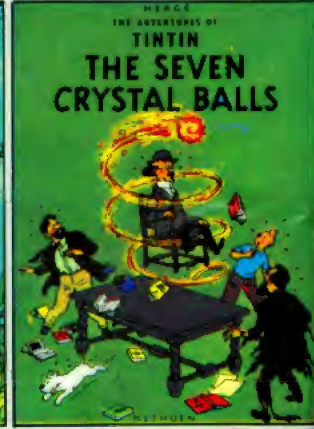
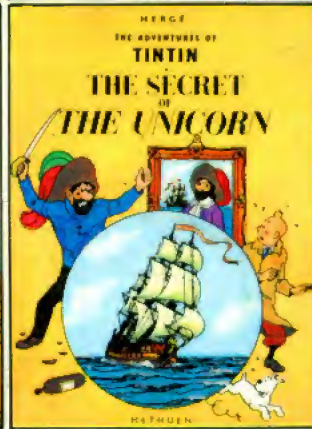
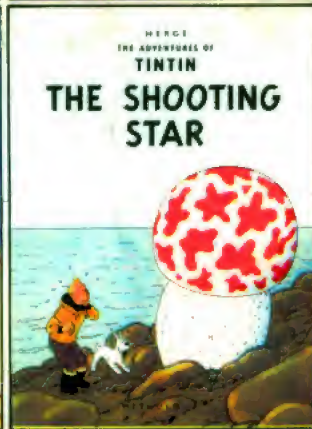
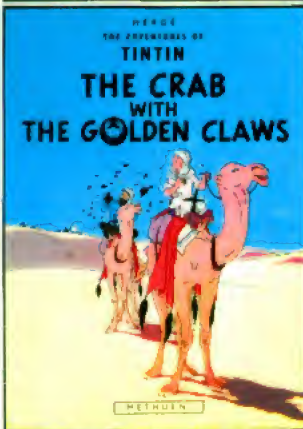
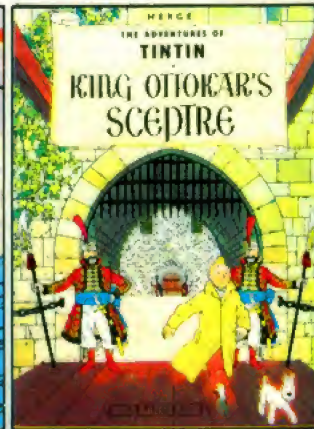
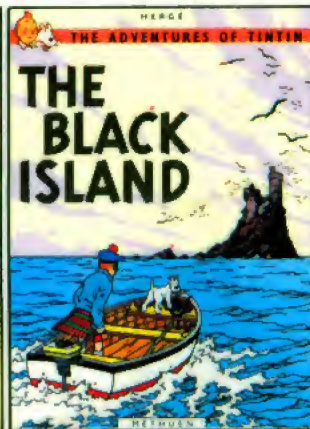
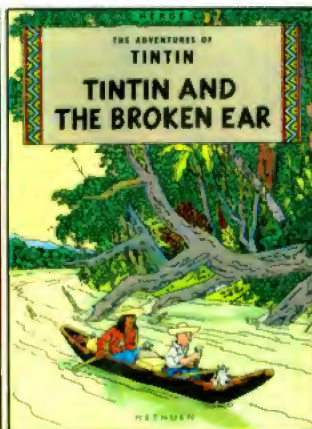
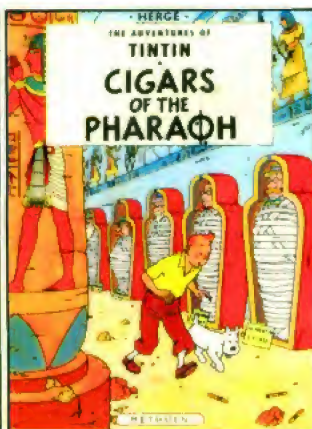
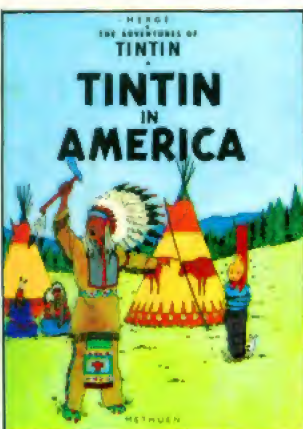


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